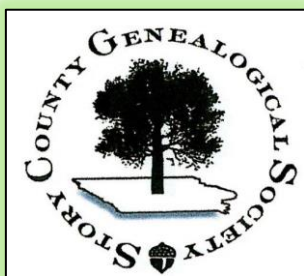


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Logo Design by
Karen Pattee David

SCGS NEWS

“Helping You Connect with Your Heritage”

Story County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 692
Ames, Iowa 50010

www.storygenes.com
email: info@storygenes.com
Facebook.com/storygenes

January 2025
Volume 58, Issue 1



President's Message

Hope everyone had a good holiday and able to be with your family and friends. Maybe learn something new about a relative. Seems like together time with family members is a good time to reminisce about something that happened in the past.

Also looking forward to the upcoming presentations. They all sound very interesting and informative. I know I always learn something. See everyone at our next meeting - January 13.

Nancy



Story County Genealogical Society

Monday January 13, 2025

6:30 PM

“Genetic Testing in Genealogy”

See Page 3

Genealogy Plus

Wednesday January 15, 2025

10:00 AM - Noon

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

“Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence”

See Page 3

Just A Few Items Inside This Issue

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Story County Genealogical Society (SCGS)

Meeting minutes

November 11, 2024, Ames Public Library and Zoom

Present: 18 members online

President Nancy Long called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

The October 14, 2024 minutes were approved.

Treasurer Pete Peterson was not present to give a report.

Malvina Lutz, vice president membership, reported there are currently 74 members. Most memberships expire at the end of December. She will send out reminders about a month in advance.

As librarian, Malvina has eight books on her library list so far for ordering this spring. Each year Malvina looks for newer published books to aid genealogists doing family history research. In March, she suggests books for Ames Public Library to consider purchasing and adding them to the shelves. SCGS pays for half of the total book cost. Books need to be general genealogy research techniques, country of original ancestry, or pertaining to Iowa. Books about the genealogy of a specific family are usually not purchased.

New Business

A slate of candidates was presented for officers. There were no nominations from the floor. Slate of incumbent officers --

President Nancy Long
Treasurer Pete Peterson
Newsletter Editor Dick Cooper
Historian Paul Martsching

Nancy said the Vice President Programming is open and a crucial position that needs to be filled.

The vote for the slate was unanimous.

Upcoming Event

Genealogy Plus Wednesday, November 20, 10 a.m.,
Ames, Public Library and via Zoom
Program: **Finding Ancestor Locations**

Continued in next column (**Minutes**)

Continued from previous column (**Minutes**)

Program

Discussion and round table: "Technology Ways and Woes"

Mary Lohr opened the discussion expressing annoyance with automatic renewals of subscriptions. Doug Jacobson said the Federal Trade Commission has a 'click to cancel' rule which declares it must be as easy to cancel as it is to subscribe. The rule will take effect in about 6 months.

Marti Steelman talked about missing an upgrade and losing the software program.

Mary suggested people read tech blogs and tech sites to find answers to problems. A company's website should be a good source of information. She said the Ames Public Library offers classes on updated software and the classes are quite good.

At the Ames Public Library November 21 at 7 p.m., Doug Jacobson will explore common cybersecurity risks and offer tips to protect personal information, avoid online scams, and ensure privacy across various devices.

The group talked about backing up genealogy data before moving to an updated program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynette Spicer, Secretary

BAD WEATHER ALERT

Today (last night) it snowed in Ames. Remember that if the Ames school system calls a snow-day, then any in-person presentation is cancelled. Of course, this doesn't pertain to Zoom if the weather doesn't have that cancelled too. Also, I was "shaken-awake" with a tornado warning on my cell phone. Don't know if that was a tornado warning or snow warning, but it was a warning of some sort anyway.

Upcoming Events At SCGS

Story County Genealogical Society

Monday January 13, 2025

**In-Person Meeting at Library and Zoom
Zoom meeting link to be sent to members
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

"Genetic Testing in Genealogy"

This presentation will feature a review of genetics, a discussion of genetic testing for genealogy technology, an understanding of how genetic tests for genealogy are interpreted, and a discussion of possible future technologies.

Presenter, Dr. Naomi Meeks, MD

Genealogy Plus

Wednesday January 15, 2025

**In-Person Meeting at Library and Zoom
10:00 am – Whenever**

"Useful But Lesser-Known Websites for Genealogical Research"

Presenter: Jim Anderegg

This presentation will discuss how the ever-evolving field of A.I., Artificial Intelligence, is impacting the world of genealogy.

Some examples of the use of it will be shown.



New Year Fun Facts

2025 will ring in with the usual fanfare, but there are some surprising facts about the date shift that many people aren't aware of.

The Quarter-Century Party Is Next Year

It hasn't been a quarter century since the millennium yet.

Why not? To find the answer, we have to recall the biggest New Year's party many of us can remember, then go even further back to the 6th century CE.

Our New Year Tools

- ☐ New Year Countdown
- ☐ New Year World Map
- ☐ Global countdown to 2025
- ☐ Who enters 2025 when?

Most of us thought we were ringing in the new millennium on New Year's Eve 2000, because the Gregorian calendar told us that midnight on that date meant ticking over from 1999 to 2000 CE.

But that idea is based on the (false) notion that a Year 0 existed. If it did, 2000 years would indeed have passed at the stroke of midnight December 31, 1999.

Experts, historians, and other sticklers for accuracy are sure that Year 0 did not exist. The year numbering system we use today was created by a 6th-century monk called Dionysius Exiguus who used Roman numerals to identify the years, and there is no Roman numeral for 0. In his system, Year 1 BCE was followed by Year 1 CE.

So, twenty-five years, or a quarter century since the new millennium, will actually pass at midnight on December 31, 2025.

When does the next decade start?

Holidays and Other Reasons to Celebrate

January 1 – New Year's Day
January 7 – Estelle Reel Day (WY)
January 8 – Battle of New Orleans (LA)
January 9 – National Day of Mourning for Jimmy Carter
January 19 – Robert E. Lee's Birthday (FLA)
January 19 – State Holiday (GA)
January 19 – Confederate Heroes' Day (TX)
January 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 20 – Robert E. Lee's Birthday – (AL & MS)
January 20 – Idaho Human Rights Day (ID)
January 20 – Civil Human Rights Day – (AR, NH)
January 20 – Inauguration Day – (DC, MD, VA)
January 29 – Kansas Day – (KS)
January 29 – Lunar New Year – (CA, WA)

There are many other religious and regional holidays to celebrate. For worldwide holidays and observances: <https://www.Timeanddate.com/holidays/>.

Other Fun Days to Celebrate in January

Please visit website: [National Days 2025 - Calendar](#) for many more dates that you may or may not want to celebrate, like:

- Hangover Day
- Cheese Lovers Day
- World Snow Day
- National Whipped Cream Day
- etc.

Of course there are many more days dedicated to nearly everything imaginable, but these are a few.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

Note: Don't write 2024 on any checks or other documents - please.

Editor's Column

Some things change (like the dates, etc. on this newsletter but others don't – like genealogy.

Well, I'll bet that most newsletter recipients thought that I tied on a good one over New Year's Eve and wasn't able to get the newsletter out on time. Such is not the case. The end of December snuck up on me and I wasn't able to get it out on time. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!!

There is an article (pages 5 & 6) in this newsletter that has copyright information at the end of it. The original author sent SCGS permission to use this article and a follow-up article in the February issue but only if we used his requested copyright information. I will push for this information as well as website links to be put on the SCGS website as it will be very helpful to genealogists.

In my research for the Presidents' Word Search, I found that there are 10 presidents with 5 different surnames that are the same. Can you email newsletter@storygenes.com and tell me the 5 surnames I am talking about??

I thought that Veteran's Day was this month, but upon further investigation I found that it is in November. Actually, every day should be veteran's day since they are stationed around the globe helping to keep the peace.

Please remember the need for a Vice President Programming for SCGS. This is a very important position that requires some "people skills" when talking to potential speakers and presenters for SCGS. Email Nancy Long if you have any questions or ideas at info@storygenes.com

Dick

Quote That May Be True – Or Not

**There is a fine line
between a packrat and a
serious family Historian.**

Tech Troubleshooting - What Would You Do?

Thomas MacEntee, of Genealogy Bargains

<https://genealogybargains.com>

hidefgen@gmail.com

Let's face it. Dealing with technologies used for genealogy research is often a hassle, especially if you're not a "digital native." Learn the basics of tech troubleshooting, how to contact a tech vendor and get results, the best ways of finding tech help online, and how to create a "tech troubleshooting protocol" for future problems. We will also cover some of the most frequent tech problems and solve them collaboratively as a group.

Tech Troubleshooting Basics

Troubleshooting any problem is a skill that can be developed by anyone who is willing to 1) not panic, 2) tap into the analytic side of the brain, and 3) document their progress. Troubleshooting technology is no different, yet for some reason even the simplest of tech problems can induce a panic of gargantuan proportions.

Here is a simple troubleshooting protocol offered by Google Generative AI Search*:

- Identify the problem and the problem area
- Gather information and eliminate non-issues
- Determine the most probable cause and check for typical causes
- Create a plan of action and test a solution
- Implement the solution and analyze the results
- Verify system functionality and document the process
- Implement preventive measures
- Reboot
- Check connections
- Look for program updates
- Close background tasks
- Clean up your hard drive
- Run an antivirus program

*"Tech troubleshooting basics" prompt. Google Generative AI Search, 20 August 2023,
<https://labs.google.com/search/experiment/1>.

In general, I think this is a sound approach, but it won't work for every situation. Remember that your configuration in terms of type of computer, type of Internet connection, etc. may require similar steps but in a different order.

Best Ways to Contact the Vendor

Put down the telephone. Seriously. Understand that Google doesn't have a phone number you can call. Facebook doesn't have telephone support. Here's how I decide whether or not to "call" customer support:

- Write down your issue BEFORE you contact the vendor. Be concise and be clear. Don't tell "the story". Just the facts. Also, make sure you mention anything like an operating system upgrade, a new printer, etc.
- Write down your membership number or login name BEFORE you call. Don't waste time on the phone looking for this information.

Continued on page 6 (**Troubleshooting**)

Continued from page 5 (**Troubleshooting**)

Best Ways to Contact the Vendor (cont'd)

- Big non-genealogy vendors like Google and Facebook: don't bother. There is no phone support for many companies and even trying to find their phone numbers is difficult - on purpose.
- Each of the major genealogy vendors have customer support. First, go to the vendor's website and look for customer support. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the link. They may ask you to search their knowledge base before you get access to the phone number. And they may not have phone support; instead, they may use a chat bot or ask you to submit a help ticket.
- Never divulge your password. EVER. If you've contacted the vendor, they, should not need your password to solve the problem.
- Remember the 5 C's: Clear, Concise, Complete, Congenial, and Compensation. This means 1) have all the info needed to communicate the problem CLEARLY; 2) don't tell a long story just use facts and be CONCISE; 3) include COMPLETE details like an upgrade to a new computer or a Windows update; 4) be CONGENIAL and friendly ... kindness goes a long way; and 5) COMPENSATION can be as simple as a thank you or completing a feedback survey.
- Most vendors have a knowledge base. A knowledge base can often be used to help you solve the problem yourself.
- Search for your problem online. I will often go to a trusted source like CNET or MakeUseOf. And I also go to Reddit and search for postings about the problem.

Finding Online Tech Help ... Beware!

Most of us know that you have to be careful when traveling down the Internet highway, and seeking out online help for technical issues is no different:

- Watch out for FAKE SITES! When searching on Google or Bing for a solution to a problem, carefully review the results. Many sites that want you to "pay" for support or force you to download spam files will look similar to legitimate sites. Example: Family Tree Support.
- Beware of sites that ask you to download a "fix". Search for "can't print PDF" and you'll find many results that look helpful. But often they'll direct you towards their product's website to download a "free" or "trial" program. If you don't know the company, DON'T DOWNLOAD ANYTHING. You never know what else is bundled in with the supposed "fix".
- Check the date of the instructions. When searching on Google or Bing, filter the results to within the past year. Anything older than that is likely out of date and won't help solve your problem.
- Use Artificial Intelligence but ... Artificial Intelligence (or AI) is an exciting new area of technology but it is not perfect. And it isn't always clear what is the original source of the solution.
- Only use Trusted Sources. Reliable websites for troubleshooting include CNET, MakeUseOf, and PC Magazine.
- Leverage the power of social media. Tap into your "hive mind" and communicate your issue with your genealogy friends on Facebook or via email. They may have experienced a similar situation. Also join the Facebook Technology for Genealogy Group and first SEARCH for your issue and see if a solution has been posted. If not, post your issue (remember the 5 C's above!) and you're certain to receive solid advice towards a solution.

Exploring Genealogical Software for Your Family History Journey

By Mary J. Lohr

Finding the Perfect Fit: A Guide to Genealogy Software

Many aspiring genealogists wonder, "What's the best genealogy software program?" Unfortunately, there's no one-size-fits-all answer. The ideal program depends on your specific needs and preferences.

Gone, But Not Forgotten: Gensoftreviews.com

Previously, Gensoftreviews.com offered a valuable resource: user-submitted reviews on various genealogy software. These reviews provided insights from fellow researchers. However, the website is now focused on developing a new program called Behold (Beholdgenealogy.com).

Behold promises exciting features, including flexible data organization and the ability to handle Gedcom files (a standard for genealogy data exchange). While the 45-day free trial sounds promising, a personal evaluation is recommended before committing.

Stepping Through Genealogy's Software History: GenealogySoftware.net

For a historical perspective, explore GenealogySoftware.net. This website acts like a "Genealogy Memory Lane," offering links to countless genealogy software programs from the past few decades. Find basic descriptions, platforms, and developer information for each program.

Beyond History: Resources for Modern Researchers

Although reviews are limited, GenealogySoftware.net provides valuable links to current software websites. Additionally, their "Browse" section offers guides and news relevant to genealogy software.

Remember, this website is a work in progress, so expect future advancements.

The Goldmine: Comparing Current Options

Within GenealogySoftware.net, the hidden gem is the comparison table at <https://genealogysoftware.net/sw/compare/>. This table allows you to easily compare popular programs based on:

- ☐ Name
- ☐ Latest Update
- ☐ Type (Database or Multimedia)
- ☐ Platform (Windows, Macintosh, Linux, Android, iOS, Online)

This resource provides a strong starting point for your software selection process. For a more comprehensive comparison, explore the Wikipedia article on genealogy software:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_genealogy_software.

The Final Verdict: It's All About Your Needs

There's no single "best" genealogy software. The perfect program caters to your specific needs and research style. Here's how to find your ideal match:

Continued on page 8 (**Software**)

Continued from page 7 (**Software**)

- ☐ **Try Free Versions:** Most programs offer free trials or limited free versions. Use these to test the interface, features, and user experience.
- ☐ **Seek Recommendations:** Talk to other genealogists! Their experiences can offer valuable insights.
- ☐ **Read Reviews:** Numerous websites offer in-depth reviews of genealogy software. Search online using engines like Google, DuckDuckGo, or Bing.
- ☐ **Experiment and Explore:** Don't be afraid to try different programs. Most allow easy data export through Gedcom files, making switching software less daunting.

Beyond Software: Secure Backup Strategies

While genealogy software provides a fantastic research and storage tool, always remember: **Never rely solely on online trees!** Implement a secure backup strategy to protect your precious family history.

Ready to Begin Your Research Journey?

By following these tips and utilizing the resources mentioned, you'll be well-equipped to choose the genealogy software that empowers you to uncover your fascinating family story. Happy researching!

The Sun Is Closest Around New Year

Copied from www.timeanddate.com

New Year's is in the middle of winter! How can the Sun be at its closest point to the Earth at that time of year?

It seems counter-intuitive. For the Northern Hemisphere, winter means temperatures drop, but in that cold season, our planet is actually closer to the Sun than at any other time of the year.

The Sun is actually closer to the Earth during the Northern Hemisphere's winter months.

The reality is that Earth's distance to the Sun doesn't cause seasons. Earth actually reaches its perihelion, or closest point to the Sun, around the Northern Hemisphere's winter solstice, and its aphelion, or furthest distance, around the North's summer solstice.

What causes seasons on Earth?

Interestingly, in a few thousand years, this will change. Graham Jones of timeanddate explains: "The main calendar we use today—the Gregorian calendar of 365 days plus the occasional leap day—was designed so that the seasons always happen around the same dates.

The calendar doesn't take account of Earth's distance from the Sun, so the date of perihelion slowly drifts over time. For example, two thousand years from now, perihelion will happen around the beginning of February."

You Can Celebrate New Year's Twice (or Thrice)

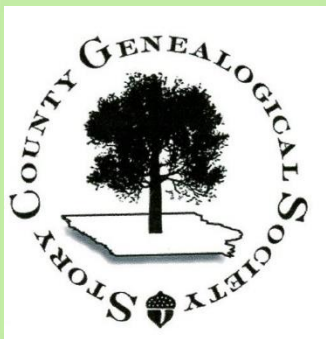
One of the best spots to do that is Cameron Corner, a remote settlement in the Australian outback, where three time zones come together. At that little-known junction, you can experience midnight, take a few steps, enjoy a second celebration 30 minutes later, and, after a short walk, enter a third time zone for your final New Year's moment of the evening.

Presidents of the United States - SCGS Word Search #54

M	A	D	I	S	O	N	B	G	R	C	O	O	L	I	D	G	E	F
A	E	R	V	A	B	S	U	S	G	I	J	K	Y	B	V	X	P	I
K	E	O	S	S	A	D	C	W	N	K	J	N	L	O	C	N	I	L
P	O	F	L	I	M	U	H	G	H	W	M	S	S	E	L	C	E	L
H	A	S	S	E	A	X	A	X	H	O	O	V	E	R	I	E	R	M
V	A	N	B	U	R	E	N	Z	A	C	N	V	C	N	N	M	C	O
V	F	O	E	E	W	I	A	C	R	A	R	R	L	T	T	C	E	R
H	E	S	R	I	I	S	N	O	R	P	O	H	E	D	O	A	E	E
V	B	N	E	J	L	E	J	K	I	L	E	Q	V	Q	N	R	K	L
Q	W	H	L	E	S	N	C	X	S	D	W	S	E	H	G	T	H	N
O	S	O	Y	P	O	H	Z	Z	O	S	R	R	L	E	D	E	A	O
P	M	J	T	G	N	O	T	G	N	I	H	S	A	W	D	R	Y	S
O	A	U	F	U	Y	W	J	T	A	Y	A	U	N	A	G	A	E	R
L	D	O	A	F	E	E	W	Q	M	E	R	N	D	Q	R	N	S	E
K	A	R	T	H	U	R	H	J	U	U	D	O	I	D	A	Z	X	F
G	A	R	F	I	E	L	D	E	R	W	I	X	N	M	N	N	O	F
F	G	H	J	R	O	L	Y	A	T	A	N	I	Q	Q	T	W	E	E
M	C	K	I	N	L	E	Y	V	B	N	G	N	O	S	K	C	A	J

Words may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal and may be backward
Answers can be found at [Word Search Answers](#) on the SCGS website

ADAMS	EISENHOWER	HAYES	MCKINLEY	TAFT
ARTHUR	FILLMORE	HOOVER	MONROE	TAYLOR
BUCHANAN	FORD	JACKSON	NIXON	TRUMAN
CARTER	GARFIELD	JEFFERSON	OBAMA	TYLER
CLEVELAND	GRANT	JOHNSON	PIERCE	VANBUREN
CLINTON	HARDING	LINCOLN	POLK	WASHINGTON
COOLIDGE	HARRISON	MADISON	REAGAN	WILSON



Logo design by Karen
Pattee David

STORY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Send dues and donations to P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

Credit Cards are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

Membership - Individual \$20 ____ or Family (2) \$25 ____

OR

Donations (Voluntary)

Make checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society

Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____ Birthday: ____/____/____

Story County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 692
Ames, Iowa 50010

Membership dues and donations can be sent to SCGS by:

SCGS, P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

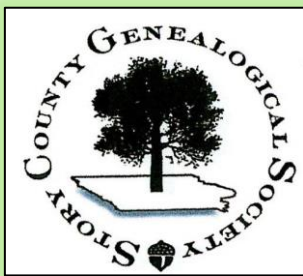
Credit cards and PayPal are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

Individual Membership - \$20

Family Membership - \$25

(12-month membership period)

Make checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society



Logo Design by
Karen Pattee David

SCGS NEWS

"Helping You Connect with Your Heritage"

Story County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 692
Ames, Iowa 50010

www.storygenes.com
email: info@storygenes.com
Facebook.com/storygenes

February 2025
Volume 58, Issue 2



President's Message

We had two fantastic presentations to start off the year. First Naomi Lohr Meeks told us about some of the basics of DNA at our Society meeting. This helped me put some things in place and now I feel I can take another step forward into the DNA process. She also told us a little how DNA for everyone is different. This was just the tip of the DNA story I am sure but a very good beginning. There were some very good questions asked and hopefully we can get her back again.

Jim Anderegg told us about AI and Genealogy at Genealogy Plus. This was also very interesting and informative. A subject very popular and good to know more about it. Could tell Jim has been looking and learning about this for a while.

Nancy

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

SCGS meetings are closed (except Zoom if applicable) if the Ames Schools are closed or delayed due to weather. This is a safety factor for everyone concerned. February may or may not have snow so everyone be careful.

Story County Genealogical Society

Monday February 10, 2025

6:30 PM

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

"Belgium and Luxembourg Genealogical Research"

See Page 3 also

Genealogy Plus

Wednesday February 19, 2025

10:00 AM - Noon

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

"Did You Listen to Your Ancestors?"

See Page 3 also

Just A Few Items Inside This Issue

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Story County Genealogical Society (SCGS)
January 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Ames Public Library and by Zoom Video

President Nancy Long called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Naomi Lohr Meeks gave an excellent presentation on Genetics Testing and Genealogy. Dr. Meeks was very informative and explained lots of DHA terms in a way that everyone could understand. I am not going to go into more details because I was too busy listening and not taking good notes. I know I was able to put some things together which hadn't made lots of sense in the past. There were many questions asked and hopefully we can get her back in the near future for a follow up presentation

Business Meeting:

Minutes of the November 11, 2024 meeting were approved.

Pete Peterson gave a year-end financial report.

Malvina reported on Membership that we have 76 members and a few haven't renewed yet and she will be sending out reminders. She reported as Librarian that she has 9 books on the wish list to turn into the Library next month (SCGS and Library - share the cost).

Cambridge Library has asked us to lead them in a Genealogy Class in the Spring. We will need to meet with the Librarian and see just what they want to learn. If you would like to help, please let me know.

The By-laws need to be reviewed. Jim Anderegg volunteered to do that task. I am sure he would appreciate anyone who would like to help.

Genealogy Plus is January 15 at Ames Public Library - 10:00 a.m. Jim Anderegg will be telling us what he has learned about AI and Genealogy.

4 attended meeting in person and 24 attended by Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Long



Valentine's Day is a celebration of love and romance that takes place every year on February 14. But behind the hearts, flowers, and chocolates, there is a rich history of Christian martyrdom and devotion. The origins of Valentine's Day are linked to one or more saints named Valentine, who were killed for their faith in ancient Rome. They have inspired generations of people and influenced the development of the feast day and its traditions.

In the United States, St. Valentine's Day has developed into an industry of approximately \$18.2 billion in 2017. This includes cards, chocolate, and other gifts. Since then the number has fallen for various reasons but it remains to be a very popular holiday.

REMEMBER YOUR
VALENTINE!!



Upcoming Events At SCGS**Story County Genealogical Society****Monday February 10, 2025****In-Person Meeting at Library and also Zoom****Zoom meeting link to be sent to members****6:30 pm to 8:30 pm****"Belgium and Luxembourg Genealogical Research"****Presenter: Lin Cornelius Strong**

Learn some of the tips and tricks of genealogical research in Belgium and Luxembourg.

Zoom Meeting link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81690310824>

Genealogy Plus**Wednesday February 19, 2025****In-Person Meeting at Library and also Zoom****10:00 am – Whenever****"Did You Listen to Your Ancestors?"****Presenter: Dr. Paul Lasley**

Based upon his 40+ years of teaching rural sociology at Iowa State University, Dr. Lasley has quizzed students about the lessons they learned from their parents as a way to introduce the cultural transmission of rural values. Through adages, metaphors and "front porch sayings," values and experiences of our ancestors were engrained in our upbringing that shape who we are.

2025 LECTURE SERIES AT THE AMES HISTORY MUSEUM

The 2025 AHM Annual Lecture Series schedule is shown below. The Program is funded by Humanities Iowa. The 2025 Lecture Series presented in partnership by Ames History Museum and Ames Public Library. All lectures begin at 7:00 pm and are Free and open to the public. **The All Lecture series are open to the public or you can register for the Zoom link.**

- Wednesday, **February 26, 2025** – Adventures Along the Lincoln Highway
- Tuesday, **March 25, 2025** – The Making of the Bicentennial Quilts
- Wednesday, **April 30, 2025** – The Bells of Iowa State
- Tuesday, **May 20, 2025** – Ames Oddities

You can go to <https://ameshistory.org> and register for the appropriate lecture or call 515-232-2148 or go to the Contact Us page to send them a message via email.

Lecture Series:**Wednesday February 26, 2025 7:00 pm**
Adventures Along the Lincoln Highway

Attend in person:
Ames Public Library
515 Douglas Ave.
Free and open to the public

Speaker: Darcy Maulsby
Iowa journalist and historian

Nothing says freedom like the great American road trip, especially when you cruise the historic Lincoln Highway in Iowa. Known as Highway 30, the Lincoln Highway revolutionized our state and country when it was developed more than a century ago. Travelers on interstates (or any paved road) owe a debt of gratitude to the visionaries who promoted the Lincoln Highway as a way to connect the country. An amazing slice of Iowa history is the story of its development - a story of American innovation, community spirit and freedom.

Holidays and Other Reasons to Celebrate

February 1 – National Freedom Day
 February 1 – First Day of Black History Month
 February 2 – Groundhog Day
 February 4 – Rosa Parks Day (NY, CA, MO)
 February 5 – National Girls & Women in Sports Day
 February 6 – Ronald Reagan Day (CA)
 February 7 – Lunar New Year (CO)
 February 7 – National Wear Red Day
 February 9 – Super Bowl (Sporting Event)
 February 12 – Lincoln's Birthday (FL, CT, IL, MO, NY)
 February 12 – Georgia Day (GA)
 February 14 – Valentine's Day
 February 14 – Statehood Day (AZ)
 February 15 – Susan B Anthony's Birthday (CO, FL, NY, WI)
 February 16 – Elizabeth Peratrovich Day (AK)
 February 17 – Presidents' Day
 February 17 – Presidents' Day (All except DE, FL, GA, IA, KS, LA, NC, RI, WI)
 February 17 – Presidents' Day (KS, KY, LA, NC, RI, WI)
 February 17 – Daisy Gatson Bates Day (AR)
 February 25 – George Rogers Clark Day (IN)
 February 28 – Linus Pauling Day (OR)

There are many other religious and regional holidays to celebrate. For worldwide holidays and observances: <https://www.Timeanddate.com/holidays/>.

Some of the observances are provided on the website: [National Days 2025 - Calendar](#)



Many people in countries such as the United States celebrate Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival or Chinese New Year. It marks the first day of the New Year in [the Chinese calendar](#).

Other Fun Days to Celebrate

February 1 – National Get Up Day
 February 2 – National Tater Tot Day
 February 2 – National Hedgehog Day
 February 3 – National Carrot Cake Day
 February 5 – National Chocolate Fondue Day
 February 6 – National Frozen Yogurt Day
 February 7 – [National Fettuccine Alfredo Day](#)
 February 8 – National Kite-Flying Day
 February 9 – National Pizza Day
 February 11 – Thomas Edison's Birthday
 February 12 – Hug Day
 February 13 – Kiss Day
 February 14 – International Book Giving Day
 February 17 – Random Acts of Kindness Day
 February 20 – National Love Your Pet Day
 February 21 – National Sticky Bun Day
 February 22 – National Margarita Day
 February 23 – National Banana Bread Day
 February 23 – Battle of the Alamo
 February 27 – National Chili Day 2025
 February 28 – National Pancake Day 2025

Many other days can be found for February at www.calendarr.com

A Note from Our Website Manager Access the 2024 issues of SCGS News online!

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Please note: Suggesting a program or speaker does NOT bind you to presenting the program or speaker (although if you want to volunteer, that would be wonderful!)

Ideas and comments can be sent to info@storygenes.com or webmanger@storygenes.com or mentioned at a regular SCGS meeting.

NOTE: Additional ideas may be mentioned elsewhere in this SCGS newsletter.

Tech Troubleshooting Scenarios

(Second of a two-part series)

Thomas MacEntee, of Genealogy Bargains

<https://genealogybargains.com>

hidefgen@gmail.com

Here are some common scenarios that many of us have encountered when working with computers, software programs, and apps related to DNA, family history and genealogy:

- **Can't access a website:**

- Check Internet connection. Is wireless working?
- If not, check your modem. Is it working? If there are any red lights or lack of lights, reboot the modem by turning it off then on. Wait up to a minute until all lights are solid.
- Is the website down? Use a site like Is It Down Right Now? or check the vendor's Facebook page for any reported outages.
- Try accessing the website on a different computer or on a mobile device.

- **Genealogy software won't load:**

- Make sure you have the latest version of the software installed. If not, upgrade.
- When was the peripheral last working properly and what has changed since then? When some users upgraded to Windows 10, they found out that older peripherals would not function properly and required a new device.

- **Peripherals (scanners, printers, external hard drive, etc.) won't work:**

- Disconnect the peripheral from the computer and reconnect.
- For Bluetooth connected devices, remove the USB transponder from the computer and plug back in or try a different USB port. Next, try removing the device from the list of devices, then add back in. Also make sure that device is within range for Bluetooth (usually 30 feet).
- Sometimes a USB hub is the issue. Remove Bluetooth transponder and move to USB connection on the computer.
- Turn the peripheral off and reboot the computer.
- Check to see if drivers are updated for peripheral devices.
- When was the peripheral last working properly and what has changed since then? When some users upgraded to Windows 10, they found out that older peripherals would not function properly and required a new device.

- **My genealogy database is missing:**

- Did you move the database file to a different location? Did you place the file in "the cloud"?
- Believe it or not, Legacy Family Tree reports that this is the #1 issue received by customer support each year. For many genealogy software programs that are installed locally (on your computer), the database is usually stored along with the program files.
- Open the software program and go to the settings. Check the default database setting and make sure it points to the correct location.

Continued on page 7 (**Scenarios**)

Continued from page 6 (**Scenarios**)

- **Keyboard or mouse not working:**

- For wireless devices, check the battery and replace if needed.
- Reboot the computer.
- For “hard wired” devices, disconnect from the computer then reconnect.
- Check to see if drivers are updated for devices.
- For Bluetooth connected devices, remove the USB transponder from the computer and plug back in or try a different USB port. Next, try removing the device from the list of devices, then add back in. Also make sure that device is within range for Bluetooth (usually 30 feet).
- Sometimes a USB hub is the issue. Remove Bluetooth transponder and move to USB connection on the computer.

- **A big “ransomware” message appears and I can’t access my computer:**

- There have not been many accounts of genealogists being victims of ransomware attacks. Usually, the cyber criminals who try to hold data hostage in exchange for a ransom attack larger companies with deeper pockets.
- If you do experience a ransomware attack, immediately disconnect your computer from your networks (Internet, wireless, Bluetooth) so that the infection doesn’t spread.
- Do not contact the ransomware attackers at all.
- If you have a complete backup program such as Backblaze or Carbonite or iDrive, contact them by telephone and report the attack. They should be able to restore the last “image” of your computer created.
- Also contact the computer manufacturer if you are under warranty. Even though you might be able to “restore” your data, the malware may have infected your hardware.
- Invest in a solid malware and virus protection program like Avast.

- **Billing issues.**

- First go to the vendor’s website, login and check your billing settings. Your credit card may have expired and needs to be updated.
- If you were billed at full price due to a renewal that you didn’t expect, call customer service RIGHT AWAY. Most sites will offer a refund.
- To avoid unexpected renewals, mark your calendar TWO WEEKS prior to your renewal date. Call customer service to either negotiate a good renewal price or to cancel your membership.

Protect Yourself: Virus and Malware Protection plus Backup Your Data

It just doesn’t make sense to do any genealogy research online without a solid virus protection program. The relatively low cost of a program like **Avast** is worth the investment to protect against ransomware and other attacks. And you also need a solid backup program such as **Backblaze, Carbonite, or iDrive**. Once set up, these programs continually backup your data. And while you’re at it, start storing your data in a cloud program such as **Dropbox, iCloud, or One Drive**.

“**Resources**” Continued on page 8 (**Resources**)

“Resources” Continued from page 7 (Resources)

Resources

- Ancestry Support Home
<https://support.ancestry.com/s/>
- Avast
<https://www.avast.com>
- Backblaze
<https://www.backblaze.com>
- Bard
<https://bard.google.com/>
- Carbonite
<https://www.carbonite.com>
- ChatGPT
<https://chat.openai.com/>
- CNET
<https://www.cnet.com>
- DropBox
<https://www.dropbox.com>
- Facebook Technology for Genealogy Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/techgen/>
- FamilySearch Support
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/fieldops/familysearch-support-contact-us>
- FindMyPast Support Team
<https://www.findmypast.com/help/contact>
- Guide to How to Recover and Prevent a Ransomware Attack – Backblaze
<https://www.backblaze.com/blog/complete-guide-ransomware/>
- iCloud
<https://www.icloud.com>
- iDrive
<https://www.idrive.com>

“Resources” Continued in next column (Resources)

“Resources” continued from previous column (Resources)

- Is It Down Right Now?
<https://www.isitdownrightnow.com/>
- MakeUseOf
<https://www.makeuseof.com>
- MyHeritage Support
<https://www.myheritage.com/contact-myheritage>
- OneDrive
<https://www.onedrive.com>
- PC Magazine
<https://www.pcmag.com/>
- Reddit
<https://www.reddit.com>

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For more information, please visit
Genealogy Bargains at <https://genealogybargains.com>

Editor's Column

The presentation on DNA by Naomi J.L. Meeks, MD given to the SCGS membership via in-person and Zoom was very interesting. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz Campus. I took a lot of notes but DNA is still an area that is complicated, especially to the novice like myself. See the SCGS minutes in this issue for more information. The link to this presentation can be found on the SCGS website (Handouts) and go to DNA and Genetics.

James Anderegg also gave a very interesting presentation on a newer subject and that is AI (Artificial Intelligence). The link to this presentation can be found on the SCGS website (Handouts) and click on Artificial Intelligence.

Military dates in February are: Coast Guard Reserve Birthday, USO Birthday and Four Chaplains Day. All of these names should be given a huge thank you for the service that they have given to this country.

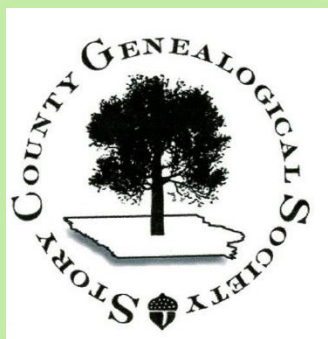
Dick

Diseases of the United States - SCGS Word Search

N	P	D	I	P	H	T	H	E	R	I	A	Q	M	V	U	G	L	S
Q	J	I	C	O	N	S	U	M	P	T	I	O	N	G	R	I	Y	E
H	E	A	R	T	D	I	S	E	A	S	E	V	M	S	G	A	S	L
S	C	R	O	F	U	L	A	I	T	M	D	G	A	H	S	R	M	S
I	I	R	D	G	H	Y	G	E	R	A	C	Z	P	G	C	D	B	A
T	P	H	F	P	X	A	K	Q	J	L	H	B	O	C	U	I	C	E
I	N	E	C	M	R	C	C	Y	C	L	O	S	P	O	R	A	S	M
L	I	A	R	S	I	E	P	B	S	P	L	B	L	S	V	S	I	R
E	N	T	E	R	I	T	I	S	H	O	E	Y	E	Y	Y	I	T	E
Y	F	P	T	P	X	R	L	P	O	X	R	B	X	P	Y	S	I	V
M	L	N	I	W	D	V	L	Y	A	L	A	B	Y	H	R	F	C	E
O	U	X	N	E	R	O	R	U	M	U	Q	C	I	I	E	J	I	F
I	E	F	I	K	O	W	N	R	O	M	S	O	Z	L	T	S	D	W
L	N	Y	S	D	P	O	N	U	C	B	D	L	G	I	N	U	N	O
O	Z	M	M	M	S	C	F	U	R	A	L	I	X	S	E	H	E	L
P	A	R	A	L	Y	S	I	S	A	G	I	T	A	N	S	P	P	L
P	N	E	U	M	O	N	I	A	S	O	P	I	A	D	Y	Y	P	E
T	T	U	B	E	R	C	U	L	O	S	I	S	K	P	D	T	A	Y

Words may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal and may be backward
Answers can be found at [Word Search Answers](#) on the SCGS website

Apoplexy	Cyclospora	Giardiasis	Pneumonia	Scurvy
Appendicitis	Diarrhea	HeartDisease	Poliomyelitis	Smallpox
Cholera	Diphtheria	Influenza	Pox	Syphilis
Colitis	Dropsy	Lumbago	Rickets	Tuberculosis
Consumption	Dysentery	Measles	Sarcoma	Typhus
Cretinism	Enteritis	ParalysysAgitans	Scrofula	YellowFever



Logo design by Karen
Pattee David

STORY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Send dues and donations to P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

Credit Cards are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

Membership - Individual \$20 ____ or Family (2) \$25 ____

OR

Donations (Voluntary)

Make checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society

Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____ Birthday: ____/____/____

Story County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 692

Ames, Iowa 50010

Membership dues and donations can be sent to SCGS by:

SCGS, P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

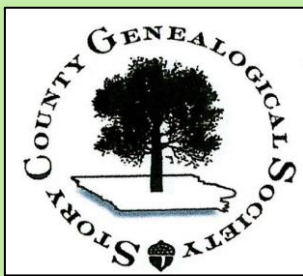
Credit cards and PayPal are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

Individual Membership - \$20

Family Membership - \$25

(12-month membership period)

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Logo Design by
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SCGS NEWS

"Helping You Connect with Your Heritage"

Story County Genealogical Society

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www.storygenes.com
email: info@storygenes.com
Facebook.com/storygenes

March 2025
Volume 58, Issue 3



President's Message

February was not a good month for me or our family. I lost my husband, Tom of Pancreatic Cancer on February 14, 2025. I heard from many of his friends that he had kept in touch with over the years along with many new friends. He kept in touch with his cousins and also heard from them. After hearing and hopefully hear in the future how he touched so many people, I am positive that his dish is full and overflowing.

On a positive note, I will try to catch up on the 2 presentations held in February. Dr. Paul Lasley is always worth listening to and Lin Cornelius Strong gave us a very good virtual/Zoom presentation on Genealogical Research in Belgium and Luxembourg and France. Dr. Lasley's presentation was concerning "Did You Listen to Your Ancestors?"

Editor's Note: Nancy's husband was not conspicuous in the genealogy world, but he supported Nancy in whatever and whoever she did in genealogy. Tom will be greatly missed.

Nancy

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

SCGS meetings are closed (except Zoom if applicable) if the Ames Schools are closed or delayed due to weather. This is a safety factor for everyone concerned. March may or may not have snow so everyone be careful.

Story County Genealogical Society

Monday March 10, 2025

6:30 PM

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

"Understanding GEDmatch"

See Page 3 also

Genealogy Plus

Wednesday March 19, 2025

10:00 AM - Noon

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

"Working With RootsMagic"

See Page 3 also

Just A Few Items Inside This Issue

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SCGS Events	Pages 1 & 3
AHM Lecture Series	Page 3
Vietnam Veterans	Page 4
Website Manager Note	Page 4
SCGS Programming Ideas	Page 5
Bylaws AI Summary	Page 6
Presentation Summary	Pages 7 & 8
Time Change	Page 10

Story County Genealogical Society (SCGS)
February 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Ames Public Library and by Zoom Video

Present online: 11

Present in person: 4

Web Manager Mary Lohr called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Program -- Research Sources: Belgium, Luxembourg, France by Lin Cornelius Strong

To begin research abroad, genealogists need as much info as they can accumulate on name, place, dates, and maps. She said the costs to do research on some websites such as Ancestry.com are increasing. She suggested researchers who lack basic information search for other family members or ancestors who have done research.

She advocated becoming a member of FamilySearch which is free. She demonstrated using the Research Wiki and the Card Catalog for Belgium.

The languages of Belgium are Dutch and French; Luxembourg are German and French. Belgium and Luxembourg church records are predominately Catholic.

Geneanet is a website with Western European records. Explore the Search tab. The family trees are secondary sources – someone compiled the information.

Upcoming Event

Genealogy Plus Wednesday, February 19, 10 a.m.,
Ames, Public Library and via Zoom
Program: "Did You Listen to Your Ancestors?"

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Lynette Spicer, Secretary



Become a History Hero:
Transcribe, Tag, and Discover!

submitted by Mary J. Lohr

Did you know reading cursive can be like having a secret superpower? If you're one of the gifted few, the National Archives wants your help! They're inviting citizen archivists to transcribe historical documents, making them accessible to everyone online.

Dive into fascinating "missions" like Revolutionary War Pensions, Cold War newsreels, and more. Curious? Head to www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist to get started.

You'll find easy how-to videos and resources, plus you'll need a free login.gov account. Don't worry if your cursive is rusty! They also have typed documents from WWII and opportunities to add tags to historical photos. Joining means you'll get their newsletter (easy to unsubscribe). Plus, they link to History Hub, a treasure trove of information!

Video Links

Following is the link to the presentation from Dr. Paul Lasley at the February Genealogy Plus meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sb5SL0fL8w>

Other videos from the Story County Genealogical Society can be found on Youtube also. Search Ames Public Library genealogical to get started.

Youtube also has other genealogy videos that you may be interested in watching.

Editor's Column

Thanks to all who contributed to the newsletter. Doesn't leave me much space but that's OK.

Don't forget the **Daylight Savings Time** change (pg. 10). Sorry to hear about Nancy's news in the President's Message (pg. 1).

Remember the 2 help sessions for this summer (pg. 3). Remember our Vietnam Veterans on March 29 (pg. 4).

Dick

Upcoming Events At SCGS

Story County Genealogical Society

Monday March 10, 2025

In-Person Meeting at Library and also Zoom

Zoom meeting link to be sent to members

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

"Understanding GEDmatch"

Presenter: Richard Martin

What is GEDmatch and how can it help you in your DNA research?

Genealogy Plus

Wednesday March 19, 2025

In-Person Meeting at Library and also Zoom

10:00 am – Whenever

"Working With RootsMagic"

Presenter: Dennis Allen

Dennis will give an overview of RootsMagic software and demonstrate some of its features.

He'll also discuss his award-winning film
"Chasing the Dead."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The SCGS Board decided its February meeting that it was time for two Help Sessions at the Ames Public Library. They will be:

Wednesday evening, April 23, 6:30-8:30 PM in the Auditorium

Saturday, June 7, 1- 3 PM in the Danfoss Room

If you are able to attend and lend assistance that would be appreciated.

Mary Lohr

2025 LECTURE SERIES AT THE AMES HISTORY MUSEUM

The 2025 AHM Annual Lecture Series schedule is shown below. The Program is funded by Humanities Iowa. The 2025 Lecture Series presented in partnership by Ames History Museum and Ames Public Library. All lectures begin at 7:00 pm and are Free and open to the public. The Lecture series are open to the public or you can register for the Zoom link.

- Tuesday, **March 25, 2025** – The Making of the Bicentennial Quilts
- Wednesday, **April 30, 2025** – The Bells of Iowa State
- Tuesday, **May 20, 2025** – Ames Oddities

You can go to <https://ameshistory.org> and register for the appropriate lecture or call 515-232-2148 or go to the Contact Us page to send them a message via email.

Lecture Series:

Tuesday March 25, 2025 7:00 pm
Adventures Along the Lincoln Highway

Attend in person:
Ames Public Library
515 Douglas Ave.
Free and open to the public

Speaker: Charlotte Menzel
Ames Quilter

The Bicentennial Quilt features 30 distinctive scenes of Ames and the Signatures Quilt features 35 names of famous Iowans in their own handwriting.

Charlotte organized the ideas and got the group started. She will relate the stories of the quilts and the many diligent women involved in their making and how the quilts were later shared. The two quilts will be on display in the auditorium during the lecture. This lecture complements the current Museum exhibit, "Quilted Together"

Holidays and Other Reasons to Celebrate

March 1 – Zero Discrimination Day
March 1 – World Civil Defense Day
March 1 – First Day of Women’s History Month
March 1 – First Day of Irish American Heritage Month
March 2 – Texas Independence Day (TX)
March 3 – Casimir Pulaski Day (IL, IN and other states)
March 3 – World Wildlife Day
March 3 – World Hearing Day
March 3 – Read Across America Day
March 4 – World Safety Day
March 4 – Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras (AL, FL, LA, MS)
March 4 – Casimir Pulaski Day (WI)
March 4 – Town Meeting Day (VT)
March 7 – Employee Appreciation Day
March 8 – International Women’s Day
March 9 – Daylight Saving Time starts (see page
March 15 – Ides of March
March 17 – Evacuation Day (MA)
March 17 – St Patrick’s Day
March 20 - March Equinox
March 25 – Maryland Day (MD)
March 26 – Prince Jonah Kuhio Alaninol Day (HI)
March 29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day
March 30 – Wyoming Veterans Welcome Home Day
March 30 – Doctors’ Day
March 30 – Vietnam Veterans Day (DE, WV)
March 31 – Seward’s Day (AK)

There are many other religious and regional holidays to celebrate. For worldwide holidays and observances: <https://www.Timeanddate.com/holidays/>.

Some of the observances are provided on the website: [National Days 2025 - Calendar](#)

Celebrate Casimir Pulaski Day

Casimir Pulaski Day is included in classroom studies in many schools. Some classes engage in historical activities related Casimir Pulaski's role in the American Revolutionary War in the late 18th century.

The day is also celebrated among Americans in other states, including Polish-American communities. Various events may include group gatherings, street parades, and public ceremonies.

A Note from Our Website Manager **Access the 2024 issues of SCGS News online!**

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Vietnam War Veterans Day

All across the United States, commemorative events like wreath-laying ceremonies, speeches, and luncheons are held to mark the occasion. Typical venues include the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC, war veteran medical facilities, and military cemeteries.

First Observed in 2012

Vietnam War Veterans Day was first observed as a one-time occasion on March 29, 2012, when President Barack Obama issued a proclamation calling on “all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.” The day was then introduced as an annual event in 2017 when President Donald Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017.

**** This article appeared in the January and February 2025 SCGS News newsletters but it is worthy of appearing again as the topic is very important to SCGS and members.**

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Please note: Suggesting a program or speaker does NOT bind you to presenting the program or speaker (although if you want to volunteer, that would be wonderful!)

Ideas and comments can be sent to info@storygenes.com
or webmanger@storygenes.com or mentioned at a regular SCGS meeting.

NOTE: Additional ideas may be mentioned elsewhere in this SCGS newsletter.

SCGS Bylaws and AI

The bylaws committee has been busy reviewing and updating the Story County Genealogy Society's bylaws. As per Article VIII (3) this is a task that should be done yearly (last done in 2019). The suggested new version of the bylaws is posted on the home page of the Society's website (storygenes.com). If you have comments, please send them to: webmanager@storygenes.com. We will review any comments for improvement of these bylaws. The ratification will be done at the May society meeting-- May 12, 2025.

Since my presentation this year was on AI and Genealogy, I thought I would see what Perplexity had to say about the proposed changes to the bylaws. Following is the response from perplexity.ai with slight editing.

Story County Genealogical Society: A Tale of Two Bylaws

"A recent review of the Story County Genealogical Society's governing documents, revealed some interesting changes in the organization's structure and operations. Let's take a closer look at the key differences between the current and proposed documents.

Board Structure Overhaul

The most significant change is in the composition of the Board of Directors. The 2019 version outlined a board of ten elected officers, including specific roles such as vice president for programming and vice president for membership. In contrast, the newer bylaws streamline the board to just four elected officers: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Flexible Leadership Roles

While reducing the number of elected positions, the new bylaws introduce a more flexible approach to leadership. They allow for appointed directors to handle specific functions such as librarian, membership secretary, and technology director. This change allows for more agility in assigning responsibilities based on the society's current needs.

Modernizing Operations

The updated bylaws reflect a more modern approach to society operations. For instance, they explicitly mention the maintenance of the society's website and social media presence, tasks assigned to the new role of technology director.

Streamlined Committees

The committee structure has been simplified in the new version. While both documents mention several committees, the newer bylaws place more emphasis on the program and education committee, reflecting a focus on the society's educational mission.

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Looking Ahead

These changes reflect an organization adapting to new challenges and opportunities in genealogical research and society management. By streamlining its leadership structure and embracing technology, the Story County Genealogical Society is poised to continue its mission of fostering interest in genealogy well into the future.

As with any organizational change, the true test will be in the implementation. Members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these new bylaws and actively participate in shaping the society's future."

James Anderegg and Perplexity.ai

Summary of February SCGS Program

(Please note: The following is a summary of Lin Strong's February 9 presentation on "Belgium and Luxembourg Genealogical Research." This was created by AI, a feature available in our Zoom subscription. Let us know your responses! Email webmanager@storygenes.com)

European Genealogical Research Strategies

Lin discussed the importance of knowing the name, dates, and locations of individuals when researching in Europe, particularly in Belgium and Luxembourg. She emphasized the value of primary sources, such as original records, and the potential for errors in secondary sources like genealogies on websites. Lin also highlighted the usefulness of family letters, obituaries, and church records in genealogical research. She recommended using familysearch.org, a free resource with extensive information, and encouraged the use of both the Research Wiki and the card catalog for more comprehensive research. Lin also explained the language differences in Belgium, with Dutch spoken in Flanders and French in Wallonia.

Belgium Genealogy Records and Resources

Lin discussed the availability of online genealogy records for Belgium, particularly those related to church records and vital information. She highlighted the usefulness of the FamilySearch.org website, which provides free access to these records, and the State Archives in Belgium. Lin also mentioned other websites like Ancestry.com and Findmypast.com, but noted that FamilySearch.org had more records available for free. She demonstrated how to use the FamilySearch.org website to search for specific records, emphasizing the importance of being less specific in searches to avoid missing potential matches due to spelling variations. Lin also mentioned the existence of a user guide and research links on the Agatha website, which she offered to share with those interested.

Genealogical Research in Alsace-Lorraine

The discussion focused on genealogical research in the Alsace-Lorraine region, Belgium, and Luxembourg. Lin explained that archives in Strasbourg contain valuable records from this area and demonstrated what these records look like, noting they are often in French. She emphasized the importance of using gazetteers and historical maps for research, highlighting various online resources. Lin then discussed Luxembourg's genealogical records, which are kept at the commune level, and mentioned that while Belgian census records are scarce, Luxembourg has census records dating back to 1766, with notable records from the Napoleonic era in 1806.

Continued on page 8 (Summary)

Continued from page 7 (Summary)

Luxembourg Records and Genealogy Resources

Lin discussed the availability and accessibility of various records, particularly those related to Luxembourg. She mentioned that census records were available from 1843 to 1870 and that the predominant religion in both Belgium and Luxembourg is Catholic. Lin also highlighted the resources available on FamilySearch.org, Ancestry, and MyHeritage, including parish civil records, church and civil registry registration, and military records. She noted that some records, particularly those from the 19th century, may be incomplete or sparse. Lin also mentioned the importance of learning genealogy word lists, particularly in French, German, and Latin, to better understand church records. She concluded by expressing her preference for Dutch records, which he found to be very complete and well-organized.

Navigating Luxembourg Census Records

Lin discussed the challenges of finding accurate information in Luxembourg census records due to the lack of standardized spelling of names. She shared her excitement about finding a record of Margaretha Redding, born in 1789, and her husband Theodore Pauls. Lin also mentioned that Pierre and Nicholas, two of Margaretha's children, immigrated to Dane County, Wisconsin in 1851. She highlighted the difficulties of navigating Luxembourg maps and the importance of understanding the language when researching in the National Archives. Lin also introduced the website Geneanet, which offers a wealth of French genealogy databases and records from the western part of Europe.

Genealogical Research and Secondary Sources

Lin discussed the importance of secondary data sources like family trees and original records for genealogical research. She highlighted the usefulness of websites like Ancestry.com, which contain thousands of family trees, and the need to double-check the information found there. Lin also shared her personal experience of finding a distant relative through DNA testing, which led to a wealth of information about her family's history. She emphasized the value of original records, such as birth, marriage, and death certificates, for understanding family history and confirmed the importance of research skills in genealogical research.

Geographic Relationships and Ancestry Research

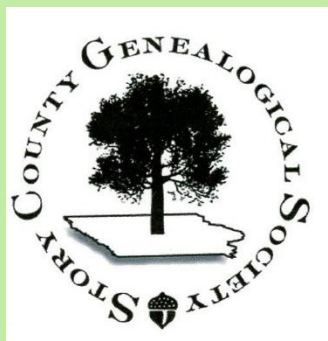
Lin discussed the geographic relationships between Belgium, Luxembourg, and France, noting that they share borders and have a history of conflicts. They also touched on the experiences of their ancestors who immigrated to the United States, particularly those who settled in Iowa and Wisconsin. Lin shared her experience of finding her husband's ancestry through DNA, which helped her confirm her research was on the right track. She also discussed the challenges of researching ancestry, particularly in countries like Ireland due to wars and limited records. Linda recommended using FindMyPast.com for Irish ancestry research.

Thoroughfares in Ames, Iowa #1 - SCGS Word Search

G	I	L	C	H	R	I	S	T	E	D	C	R	A	W	F	O	R	D
F	J	I	R	O	N	W	O	O	D	S	W	L	J	K	P	I	U	O
H	E	N	R	U	O	B	G	Q	S	Z	X	V	A	V	T	F	A	U
S	D	C	H	R	E	D	C	S	I	S	G	L	U	R	F	L	D	G
W	W	O	V	G	H	U	M	A	X	W	E	L	L	K	K	L	A	L
A	S	L	D	C	A	N	O	R	T	H	D	A	K	O	T	A	Y	A
H	R	N	E	W	I	O	G	H	E	N	M	M	M	F	G	D	T	S
N	U	I	X	X	R	R	Z	A	E	C	A	R	R	O	L	L	O	S
O	D	C	B	U	P	T	N	B	N	A	M	R	E	H	S	N	N	M
T	Y	U	H	N	O	H	K	L	T	T	E	N	R	U	B	R	D	F
G	Q	Q	U	I	R	W	V	H	H	R	Y	N	K	L	B	I	K	L
N	T	Y	N	V	T	E	I	S	E	N	H	O	W	E	R	V	E	H
I	D	R	Z	E	L	S	O	P	I	I	U	S	T	D	O	E	L	A
M	T	Y	I	R	G	T	Y	M	L	O	B	N	S	S	W	R	L	S
O	R	T	K	S	A	E	V	V	A	A	X	H	Z	Z	N	S	O	P
O	H	G	E	I	E	R	R	W	W	I	J	O	K	L	I	I	G	E
L	M	O	R	T	E	N	S	E	N	W	N	J	V	V	N	D	G	N
B	B	N	E	Y	E	K	C	U	B	F	D	N	A	R	G	E	L	P

Words may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal and may be backward
Answers can be found at [Word Search Answers](#) on the SCGS website

AIRPORT	BURNETT	DUFF	JOHNSON	NORTHDAKOTA
ASPEN	CARROLL	EISENHOWER	KELLOGG	NORTHWESTERN
BLOOMINGTON	CLARK	GILCHRIST	LINCOLN	RIVERSIDE
BOURNE	CRAWFORD	GRAND	MAIN	SHERMAN
BROWNING	DAYTON	HUNZIKER	MAXWELL	SIXTEENTH
BUCKEYE	DOUGLASS	IRONWOOD	MORTENSEN	UNIVERSITY



Logo design by Karen
Pattee David

STORY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Send dues and donations to P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

Credit Cards are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

Membership - Individual \$20 ____ or Family (2) \$25 ____

OR

Donations (Voluntary)

Make checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society

Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____ Birthday: ____/____/____

Story County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 692
Ames, Iowa 50010

Membership dues and donations can be sent to SCGS by:

SCGS, P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

Credit cards and PayPal are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

Individual Membership - \$20

Family Membership - \$25

(12-month membership period)

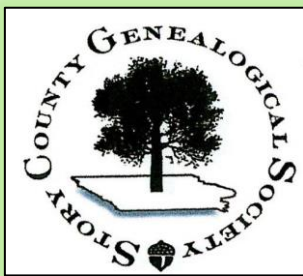
Make checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society

Daylight Savings Time



When local standard time is about to reach Sunday, March 9, 2025, **2:00:00 am** clocks are turned **forward** 1 hour to Sunday, March 9, 2025, **3:00:00 am** local daylight time instead.
*** Many computers and iPhones do this automatically, depending upon your plan.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on Mar 9, 2025 than the day before. There will be more light in the evening and less light in the morning.



Logo Design by
Karen Pattee David

SCGS NEWS

"Helping You Connect with Your Heritage"

Story County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 692
Ames, Iowa 50010

www.storygenes.com
email: info@storygenes.com
Facebook.com/storygenes

April 2025
Volume 58, Issue 4



President's Message

March is almost over and hopefully winter weather. We have had some really nice days and then everything changes in a very short period of time. Enjoying the nice days.

Richard Martin gave us a very good look at GEDmatch at our society meeting. I didn't get to Dennis Allen's presentation on Roots Magic at Genealogy Plus, but I am sure it was interesting and informative. Looking forward to watching it later.

April promises to have a couple more very good presentations. Check the website for details. Also, a Help Session is been planned for April 23 so get your questions gathered up and see if we can help you find some answers.

We will be voting on the By-laws changes in May. You can review the changes on the website (storygenes.com – no password or username needed).

Nancy

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

SCGS meetings are closed (except Zoom if applicable) if the Ames Schools are closed or delayed due to weather. This is a safety factor for everyone concerned. Even April may or may not have snow so everyone be careful.

Story County Genealogical Society

Monday April 14, 2025

6:30 PM

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

"How Do We Tell Our Story: a Dialogue with Tom Schwans"

See Page 3 also

Genealogy Plus

Wednesday April 16, 2025

10:00 AM - Noon

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

"Researching the History of Houses and Their Inhabitants"

See Page 3 also

Help Session

April 23, 2025

In Auditorium at Ames Public Library

Just A Few Items Inside This Issue

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AHM Lecture Series	Page 3
New Publications	Page 4
SCGS Bylaws	Pages 2 & 6
Iowa Newspapers	Page 7
Genealogy Trails	Page 8

Story County Genealogical Society (SCGS)
February 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Ames Public Library and by Zoom Video

Present: 11 online and 8 at the library

President Nancy Long called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Treasurer Pete Peterson reported he filed Internal Revenue Service Form 990 which provides information about a nonprofit organization.

Malvina Lutz, vice president membership, reported there are currently 63 members. As librarian, Malvina gave the Ames Public Library the titles of seven newly published research books to consider ordering. When the library approves paying half of the cost of some or all the books, Malvina will write about the titles for the newsletter.

Long said the bylaws are on the Home Section of the society's website. A notice was in the March and April newsletters for members to review. Members will vote on the bylaws at the May meeting.

Upcoming

Genealogy Plus Wednesday, March 19, 10 a.m., Ames, Public Library and via Zoom

Program: Working With RootsMagic

An overview of RootsMagic software and a demonstration of some of its features plus a discussion of the award-winning film "Chasing the Dead".

Presenter: Dennis Allen

Help sessions Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 7 at 1 p.m.

Richard Martin presented the evening's program, Understanding GEDmatch.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynette Spicer, Secretary

Editor's Column

Don't forget to mark the dates and times shown below for the Help Sessions.

Please be sure to attend the May 12th Regular Meeting of SCGS. We will discuss and then vote on the new bylaws that are printed in their entirety on the SCGS website (www.storygenes.com). Please be ready to discuss them.

There will be some email addresses that are still not corrected from the March newsletter. I will get on the phone and call the appropriate people and send the April to the correct people. Sorry about that!!

Thank you to the members who have sent articles to your newsletter editor. It makes my job much easier.

One of our members (not in Story County) has received many good comments about her story telling and programs that she has put on about where to find your relatives. Maybe we can talk her into doing a Zoom presentation sometime.

Please read over the list of publications on page 4. Soon they will appear on the shelves at the Ames Public Library. When they do, be certain to check out 1 or more of them and read about how to improve your genealogy.

Dick

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The SCGS Board decided its February meeting that it was time for two Help

Sessions at the Ames Public Library. They will be:

Wednesday evening, April 23, 6:30-8:30 PM
in the Auditorium

Saturday, June 7, 1- 3 PM in the Danfoss Room

If you are able to attend and lend assistance that would be appreciated. – Per Mary Lohr

Upcoming Events At SCGS

Story County Genealogical Society

Monday April 14, 2025

In-Person Meeting at Library and also Zoom

Zoom meeting link to be sent to members

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Zoom Meeting Link =>>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81690310824>

**"How Do We Tell Our Story:
a Dialogue with Tom Schwans"**

Presenter: Tom Schwans

Tom, a resident of New York City, is a professional actor and storyteller. He'll join us to have a dialogue about telling, recalling, and finding family stories and memories. (As the middle of eight children, he definitely has some stories to share.) Be prepared to learn something new and to entertained!

Genealogy Plus

Wednesday April 16, 2025

In-Person Meeting at Library and also Zoom

10:00 am – Whenever

**"Researching the History of Houses and
Their Inhabitants"**

Presenter: Lori Osmus Kappmeyer

How can someone find out about the people who have lived in a particular house, or where certain people lived during their lives? The presenter will describe her experience in doing this for her 2000 ISU master's thesis on Queen Anne style houses in Boone, Iowa, and for her research on family history in Joliet, Illinois.

*****Help Session*****

Wednesday April 23, 2025

In Auditorium at Ames Public Library

2025 LECTURE SERIES AT THE AMES HISTORY MUSEUM

The 2025 AHM Annual Lecture Series schedule is shown below. The Program is funded by Humanities Iowa. The 2025 Lecture Series presented in partnership by Ames History Museum and Ames Public Library. All lectures begin at 7:00 pm and are Free and open to the public. **The Lecture series are open to the public or you can register for the Zoom link.**

- Wednesday, **April 30, 2025** – The Bells of Iowa State: An Enduring Tradition
- Tuesday, **May 20, 2025** – Ames Oddities

You can go to <https://ameshistory.org> and register for the appropriate lecture or call 515-232-2148 or go to the Contact Us page to send them a message via email.

Lecture Series:

Wednesday April 30, 2025 7:00 pm
The Bells of Iowa State: An Enduring Tradition

Attend in person:
Ames Public Library
515 Douglas Ave.
Free and open to the public

Speaker: Bob Lindemeyer
Retired ISU Associate Director for Media Development and Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation past president

As Iowa State University marks the Campanile's historic 125th anniversary, experience this multi-media history of the Carillon located in this iconic structure. Melodies from this 50-bell instrument are woven into daily life on campus – memorable to students and visitors alike. The program includes a charming video of Jim Wilson telling the story of his composing "Green Hills: The Bells of Iowa State."

Holidays and Other Reasons to Celebrate

April 2 – Pascua Florida Day (FL)
 April 6 – National Tartan Day
 April 8 – National Library Workers Day
 April 13 – Thomas Jefferson’s Birthday
 April 15 – Tax Day
 April 15 – Father Damien Day (HI)
 April 16 – Emancipation Day (DC)
 April 18 – Arbor Day (CO)
 April 18 – State Holiday (GA)
 April 21 – Patriots’ Day (Maine, Massachusetts)
 April 21 – San Jacinto Day (TX)
 April 21 – Boston Marathon
 April 21 – Oklahoma Day (OK)
 April 23 – Administrative Professionals Day
 April 24 – Take our daughters and Sons to Work Day
 April 25 – Arbor Day (NE)
 April 25 – Arbor Day (AZ, DE)
 April 26 – Confederate Memorial Day (FL)
 April 26 – State Holiday (GA)
 April 28 – Arbor Day (WY)
 April 28 – Confederate Memorial Day (AL, MS)

There are many other religious and regional holidays to celebrate. For worldwide holidays and observances: <https://www.Timeanddate.com/holidays/>.

Some of the observances are provided on the website: [National Days 2025 - Calendar](#)

April 1 – National Sourdough Bread Day
 April 1 – National Fun at Work Day
 April 1 – Edible Book Day
 April 1 – International Tatting Day
 April 1 – National Fun Day
 April 1 – Child Abuse Awareness Month
 April 2 – National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day
 April 2 – National DIY Day
 April 2 – National Ferret Day
 April 3 – Don’t Go to Work Unless it’s Fun Day
 April 6 – National Caramel Popcorn Day
 April 7 – National No Housework Day
 April 7 – National Beer Day
 April 13 – National Peach Cobbler Day
 April 16 – National Pajama Day
 April 18 – National Amateur Radio Day (N2LMK)
 April 23 – National Take a Chance Day
 AND MANY OTHERS – FUN AND OTHERWISE



1. Ancestry.com: Frequently Asked Questions about Genealogy, Large Print, by Dennis Fitzgerald, published January 2024.
2. Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace, 4th Edition Revised, by Elizabeth Shown Mills, published January 2024.
3. Beginner’s Guide to Genealogy: How to Get Started with Your Family Research, by Family Tree Magazine, published February 2024.
4. Discover Hidden Family Roots thru DNA: A Beginner’s Handbook, by Mitchell E. Carrillo, published May 2024.
5. Journeys of the Forgotten: The Orphans of Hamilton County, Iowa, by Jill Morelli, published July 2024.
6. AI and Genealogy: A Practical Guide to Summarizing, Transcribing, and Translating Historical Documents, by Thomas MacEntee, published December 2024.
7. The Birth Certificate: An American History, by Susan J. Pearson, published November 2021.

NOTE: The list of publications above has been presented to the Ames Public Library. These publications will be ordered and the cost will be shared between the Story County Genealogical Society and the Ames Public Library. When the publications are received, they will be cataloged and put on the shelves at the library. At that time, another, similar article will be published with the actual call numbers and how to locate them. Thank you to the Ames Public Library for their assistance in keeping genealogy “alive.”

Programming Ideas

One of the goals of the Story County Genealogical Society is quality programming for our members and guests. To that end, planning has begun for the 2025-2026 years. And you can be a part of the process!!

1. What types of programs would you like to have for SCGS Monday night meetings and Wednesday morning Genealogy Plus?

Do you have a genealogy tale, success story, or brick wall challenge you would like to share? (It would not have to be an entire program.)

What types of former programs have you found useful?

Is there a particular genealogy concept or database you would like to learn more about?

Do you use a genealogy software program? If so, which one?

Planning for the 2025-2026 year is underway and we welcome your suggestions!

2. Here is where we could use your assistance if you are interested:

SCGS would like to open the Monday evening programs to members who are interested in giving a presentation. It *could* be 30-45 minutes in length, but it doesn't need to be! Shorter talks or demonstrations are welcome.

Here's a thought: the SCGS Board has decided the January and February 2026 Monday night meetings will be online only due to unpredictability of winter weather. That means you could give a presentation from the comfort of your home via Zoom. (We will help you with the technicalities of presenting via Zoom if you want assistance.)

Only the Monday, September 8, program has been scheduled so far.

Please give it some thought and think about what you can share with other SCGS members!

(One final hint: do you have a challenging brick wall? You could write up a summary of what you have so far, places you've searched, techniques you've used ... and we could suggest ideas for a solution.)

Questions or suggestion: email info@storygenes.com or webmanager@storygenes.com

Please let us know what you think!

Sincerely,
Mary J. Lohr, Web Manager
Story County Genealogical Society

Please note: Suggesting a program or speaker does NOT bind you to presenting the program or speaker (although if you want to volunteer, that would be wonderful!)

Ideas and comments can be sent to info@storygenes.com or webmanager@storygenes.com or mentioned at a regular SCGS meeting.

SCGS Bylaws and AI

The bylaws committee has been busy reviewing and updating the Story County Genealogy Society's bylaws. As per Article VIII (3) this is a task that should be done yearly (last done in 2019). The suggested new version of the bylaws is posted on the home page of the Society's website (storygenes.com). If you have comments, please send them to: webmanager@storygenes.com. We will review any comments for improvement of these bylaws. **The ratification will be done at the May society meeting-- May 12, 2025.**

Since my presentation this year was on AI and Genealogy, I thought I would see what Perplexity had to say about the proposed changes to the bylaws. Following is the response from perplexity.ai with slight editing.

Story County Genealogical Society: A Tale of Two Bylaws

"A recent review of the Story County Genealogical Society's governing documents, revealed some interesting changes in the organization's structure and operations. Let's take a closer look at the key differences between the current and proposed documents.

Board Structure Overhaul

The most significant change is in the composition of the Board of Directors. The 2019 version outlined a board of ten elected officers, including specific roles such as vice president for programming and vice president for membership. In contrast, the newer bylaws streamline the board to just four elected officers: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Flexible Leadership Roles

While reducing the number of elected positions, the new bylaws introduce a more flexible approach to leadership. They allow for appointed directors to handle specific functions such as librarian, membership secretary, and technology director. This change allows for more agility in assigning responsibilities based on the society's current needs.

Modernizing Operations

The updated bylaws reflect a more modern approach to society operations. For instance, they explicitly mention the maintenance of the society's website and social media presence, tasks assigned to the new role of technology director.

Streamlined Committees

The committee structure has been simplified in the new version. While both documents mention several committees, the newer bylaws place more emphasis on the program and education committee, reflecting a focus on the society's educational mission.

Financial Oversight

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Looking Ahead

These changes reflect an organization adapting to new challenges and opportunities in genealogical research and society management. By streamlining its leadership structure and embracing technology, the Story County Genealogical Society is poised to continue its mission of fostering interest in genealogy well into the future.

As with any organizational change, the true test will be in the implementation. Members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these new bylaws and actively participate in shaping the society's future."

James Anderegg and Perplexity.ai

Iowa Newspaper Treasures: Enhanced Access for Genealogists

By Mary J. Lohr

For genealogists, newspapers are invaluable portals to the past, particularly for tracing ancestors from fifty to a hundred years ago. Who among us hasn't delighted in the richly detailed obituaries that once graced our local papers?

The State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) has long been a cornerstone for researchers seeking access to Iowa's vast newspaper heritage. Now, accessing these historical records has become even more convenient.

Microfilm Resources:

SHSI houses an extensive collection of newspaper titles on microfilm, some dating back to 1836. These reels are available at both the Des Moines and Iowa City research centers. However, save yourself a trip by utilizing your local library's interlibrary loan service. Request the specific microfilm reel you need, and explore it from the comfort of your own library. For detailed instructions, visit:

<https://history.iowa.gov/visit/research-centers/interlibrary-loan>

Digital Newspaper Collections:

The digital age has brought even greater accessibility to Iowa's newspapers, with several notable collections now available:

○ **Chronicling America (Iowa Digital Newspaper Project):**

Thanks to the Iowa Digital Newspaper Project, with participation from institutions like Parks Library at Iowa State University, many Iowa newspapers are now digitized and accessible through the Library of Congress's Chronicling America website. Explore this free resource at: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america>

○ **Advantage Archives:**

Digitized by Advantage Preservation, these newspapers are available through subscribing local libraries and institutions, as well as at SHSI research centers. For example, Ames Public Library provides remote access to numerous issues of the Ames Tribune (and its predecessors) through its website. Check with your local library to see if they subscribe.

○ **Newspaper Archive (SHSI Access):**

This exciting addition offers free at-home access, but with a specific access point. You must access the Newspaper Archive collection through the dedicated link on the SHSI website:

<https://history.iowa.gov/research/collections/newspapers>

(Scroll down to the "Newspaper Archive" section.)

Tips for Effective Research:

- Remember to utilize keyword searches, including names, locations, and dates, to maximize your search results.
- Be aware that digitization projects are ongoing, so new content is regularly added to these collections.
- Keep in mind that older newspapers often used different spelling, and search with varying spelling of names and locations.

By leveraging these valuable resources, you can unlock a wealth of information about your Iowa ancestors and the communities they inhabited. **Happy searching!**

Unearthing Hidden Gems: Exploring GenealogyTrails.com

By Mary J. Lohr

Have you ever stumbled upon a website that felt like a treasure trove of historical nuggets? If you haven't yet explored GenealogyTrails.com, you're in for a treat.

This free resource, as stated on their site, aims "to help you track your ancestors through time by transcribing genealogical and historical data for the free use of all researchers." For those of us mindful of our research budgets, "free" is music to our ears!

Founded in March 2000 in Illinois, and blossoming to cover multiple states by 2006, Genealogy Trails is now organized into seven regions. Iowa, for example, resides in the Midwest region. Its structure, with links to individual county pages within each state, mirrors the familiar organization of the GenWeb project.

One of the site's unique features is its independence; Genealogy Trails is entirely ad-free. No distracting banners or pop-ups will interrupt your exploration. A built-in search utility, Freefind, allows you to efficiently search across the entire site.

What truly sets Genealogy Trails apart is its commitment to fresh content. Site hosts are required to provide regular updates, ensuring the site remains dynamic and informative. With over 200,000 web pages brimming with transcribed historical data, there's always something new to discover.

What kind of treasures await you? Expect an "eclectic collection" – a delightful mix of the common and the obscure. You might find anything from local historical accounts to obscure records, each potentially holding a vital clue to your family history. The only way to know for sure is to dive in and explore!

The site's top-level projects are particularly noteworthy. You'll find a wealth of information on Civil War pensions, the 1859 mortality schedule, records of soldiers receiving military headstones, World War I casualties, historical maps, slavery data, Native American records, and much more. From the main page, links guide you to state sites, and then to the county level, where the bulk of the data resides.

Genealogy Trails adheres to a strict policy of only posting out-of-copyright material and does not accept content already published on other websites. This means you're likely to uncover unique information not readily available elsewhere.

My recommendation? Dedicate time to thoroughly explore the counties where your ancestors lived. Even if you don't find direct mentions of your family, you'll gain invaluable insights into the daily lives, news, and events that shaped their world.

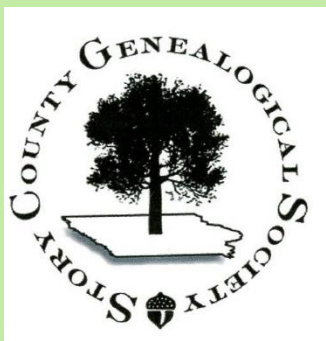
Visit GenealogyTrails.com and embark on a journey of discovery. You never know what fascinating details you might unearth!

Thoroughfares in Ames, Iowa #1 - SCGS Word Search

O	K	L	A	H	O	M	A	D	R	T	O	M	V	D	X	X	P	C
L	H	A	R	R	I	S	O	N	H	J	J	T	V	S	H	M	T	O
S	D	H	J	K	L	K	J	H	V	R	K	K	L	J	E	A	C	L
A	R	R	I	S	M	I	T	H	C	S	T	A	E	K	M	R	X	O
Q	S	P	A	N	O	R	A	M	I	C	T	Y	E	I	L	I	H	R
G	H	Y	T	H	R	I	T	P	K	J	G	D	H	N	O	G	P	A
B	T	Z	L	Z	N	W	E	R	D	Q	I	S	A	G	C	O	I	D
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L	G	H	V	H	N	Y	B	Z	E	D	L	K	O	B	D	D	E	P
T	F	G	E	R	G	T	L	K	K	I	O	K	S	U	O	S	H	D
I	I	H	S	F	S	W	A	W	E	D	C	F	R	R	O	T	U	D
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E	R	R	K	L	A	Y	U	U	O	U	L	E	F	O	O	W	W	D
Q	E	L	X	X	F	H	R	E	B	E	A	R	G	R	R	O	C	A
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S	J	E	F	F	E	R	S	O	N	M	D	A	W	E	S	D	X	B

Words may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal and may be backward
Answers can be found at [Word Search Answers](#) on the SCGS website

ALBERTA	DAWES	HARRISON	MARIGOLD	PANORAMIC
ARRISMITH	FILMORE	HEMLOCK	MORNINGSIDE	PEARSON
BALTIMORE	FOXLEY	JEFFERSON	MORSE	PINEHURST
BILLYSUNDAY	GRAEBER	KEATS	NARLAND	ROOSEVELT
BRADFORD	GREENBRIAR	KINGSBURY	OAKWOOD	ROSEWOOD
COLORADO	HARCOURT	LAKESIDE	OKLAHOMA	SALK



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STORY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Send dues and donations to P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

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Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

Credit Cards are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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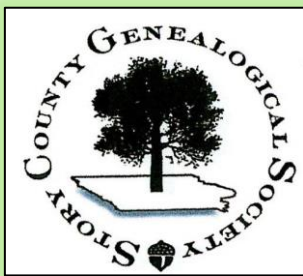
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SCGS NEWS

"Helping You Connect with Your Heritage"

Story County Genealogical Society

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email: info@storygenes.com
Facebook.com/storygenes

May 2025
Volume 58, Issue 5

President's Message



We will be voting on the By-laws changes at the May 12th meeting. You can review the changes on the website

(storygenes.com – no password or username needed).

April had some really good presentations. First of all, we got many tips from Tom Schwan on how to tell your story at our Society meeting. We also got to ask questions and share experiences in storytelling.

Next at Genealogy Plus we heard Lori Osmus Kappmeyer explain how she researched the history of several houses in Boone and their inhabitants for her ISU Master's thesis. This was especially interesting to me because I have been attempting to find out more history about the house where I grew up for many years. This also led me on another path which I hadn't expected. I started with a Plat Map and found that there were many Longs who settled and lived only about 2 miles from where I grew up. Haven't found a direct connection yet but it has been very interesting.

We had a real good turnout of helpers and people asking questions at our Help Session. I didn't break down any brick walls for the person I was attempting to help but it was very interesting to hear her story.

We look forward to the presentations for May and in June we will be having a couple classes at the Cambridge Library. Always fun to help people on their path to finding their ancestors.

Nancy

Story County Genealogical Society

Monday May 12, 2025

6:30 PM

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

"Germans From Russia"

See Page 3 also

Genealogy Plus

Wednesday May 21, 2025

10:00 AM - Noon

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

"Genealogy Tools at Ames Public Library"

See Page 3 also

Help Session

June 7, 2025 – 1 – 3 pm

In Danfoss Room at Ames Public Library

Just A Few Items Inside This Issue

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Story County Genealogical Society (SCGS)
April 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Ames Public Library and by Zoom Video

Present: 9 at the Ames Public Library, 17 online

Mary Lohr introduced Tom Schwans, professional actor and resident of New York City. He presented the program on How Do We Tell Our Story?

Schwans said good stories have conflict. Biography is a series of facts. Legacy, how we want to be remembered, is different from biography. An example he gave was Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite, whom most know for sponsoring the Nobel Peace Prize.

Schwans said often we don't share stories of our lives because we don't think they are important. He encouraged people to ask questions, such as tell me about a time when you struggled. Storytelling must have something to overcome.

Others' stories about our relatives may be good stories. What is true? Truth is how you remember it. You and someone else see the same event in a different perspective. He cited The Moth: Storytelling which claims all the stories are true as best the storyteller can remember. You define yourself by telling your stories.

Schwans said some things come in confidence. He asked, is it your story to tell? He concluded, putting together a family genealogy provides an opportunity to ask more questions and get good stories.

Business Meeting

Minutes from March 10 were approved. Treasurer Pete Peterson gave his report.

Malvina Lutz, vice president membership, reported there are currently 62 members. As librarian, Malvina said the Ames Public Library has ordered the seven new research books the society recommended. The new books are in but not on the shelves yet. The amount due to the Ames Public Library for our half of the seven books is \$105.85.

Continued in next column (**Minutes**)

Continued from previous column (**Minutes**)

President Nancy Long reviewed upcoming meetings:

- Genealogy Plus is Wednesday, April 16 at 10 a.m., Ames, Public Library and via Zoom. Lori Osmus Kappmeyer will present on researching the history of houses and their inhabitants.
- A genealogy help session, co-sponsored by the Ames Public Library is Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the library

Respectfully submitted,
Lynette Spicer, Secretary

SCGS Summer Genealogy Opportunities

by Mary J. Lohr

We know summer is prime time for hitting the road and exploring those cemeteries, courthouses, museums, and archives that hold the key to your family history! That's why SCGS often takes a break from regular programming during these warmer months, encouraging you to embark on your research adventures.

However, this summer we're happy to offer two special opportunities to keep your genealogy journey thriving right here in Central Iowa:

1. Jump-start Your Roots: Beginning Genealogy Classes in Cambridge

Are you new to the fascinating world of genealogy or know someone who is? SCGS is hosting a series of **two introductory genealogy classes** at the **Cambridge Memorial Library** in Cambridge, Iowa. Join us at **6 PM on Thursdays, June 5th and June 19th**, as we guide you through the fundamentals of tracing your family history. This is a chance to learn essential research skills and connect with fellow budding genealogists.

Keep an eye on the Events section of our website, storygenes.com, for more details and any updates!

2. Knock Down Brick Walls at Our Ames Help Session

Stuck on a tricky ancestor or facing a genealogical puzzle? Our experienced SCGS members are here to help! Join us for a **Genealogy Help Session on Saturday, June 7th, at 1:00 PM** at the **Ames Public Library**. Bring your burning questions, challenging brick walls, and any genealogical roadblocks you've encountered. We'll pool our knowledge and resources to help you find those elusive connections. We look forward to seeing you this summer, whether you're in the archives or at one of our special events! Happy researching!

Upcoming Events At SCGS**Story County Genealogical Society****Monday May 12, 2025****In-Person Meeting at Library and Zoom
Zoom meeting link to be sent to members
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm****"Germans from Russia"****Presenter: Marv Rohn and Ron Brott**

Mr. Rohn and Mr. Brott are members of the Wild Rose Chapter, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.

This presentation will give an overview and history of the Germans from Russia, reasons for their immigration to the USA, regions where they settled, and resources available for research.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81690310824> <--Zoom
Meeting link

Genealogy Plus**Wednesday May 21, 2025****In-Person Meeting at Library and Zoom
10:00 am – Whenever****"Genealogy Tools at Ames Public Library"****Presenter: Megan Klein-Hewett**

Join Megan Klein-Hewett, Adult Services Manager at Ames Public Library, to learn more about library resources for your genealogical pursuits. With a print genealogy collection, robust online resources, and the equipment to digitize photos, slides, negatives, and videos, APL has something for every step of your genealogy journey.

*****Help Session*******Wednesday June 7, 2025 – 1 – 3 pm
Danfoss Room at Ames Public Library****2025 OPEN HOUSE SPONSORED BY
THE AMES HISTORY MUSEUM**

The 2025 AHM Annual Lecture Series schedule is shown below. The Program is funded by Humanities Iowa. The 2025 Lecture Series presented in partnership by Ames History Museum and Ames Public Library. All lectures begin at 7:00 pm and are Free and open to the public.

- Tuesday, **May 20, 2025** – Hoggatt School O/H
- Tuesday, **May 20, 2025** – Ames Oddities
(Oddities is Part of AHM Lecture Series)

You can go to <https://ameshistory.org> and register or call 515-232-2148 or go to the Contact Us page to send them a message via email.

Open House:**Tuesday May 20, 2025****2:45 – 3:15 PM****Hoggatt School Open House****18th & Burnett****Attend in person–All Ages Welcome**

As soon as school gets out, head over to Hoggatt to learn more about the one-room school! All are invited, especially Meeker Elementary families.

Ames History Museum**Lecture Series****Tuesday May 20, 2025 - 7:00 PM****Ames Public Library**

Speaker: Kathy Svec, museum volunteer, with help from Sharon Wirth, Bob Bourne, and Alex Fejfar.

All around Ames are certain structures and features that are odd-looking, have a strange shape, or don't seem to fit into the rest of their surroundings. Some are remnants of past landscape features; some were influenced by historic decisions that are hardly remembered in the current day. We'll take a pictorial tour of these "oddities" and relate the fascinating and sometimes quirky reasons why these things are the way they are. Perhaps those "oddities" will make more sense and you'll see our city with new eyes.

2025 Lecture Series presented in partnership by Ames History Museum and Ames Public Library.

Holidays and Other Reasons to Celebrate

May 1 – Law Day
 May 1 – Loyalty Day
 May 1 – Lei Day (Hawaii)
 May 1 – West Virginia Day of Prayer (WV)
 May 1 – First Day of Military Appreciation Month
 May 1 – First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
 May 2 & 3 – Kentucky Oaks (Sporting Event)
 May 3 – National Explosive Ordinance Disposal Day
 May 4 – Kent State Shootings Remembrance (OH)
 May 4 – Rhode Island Independence Day (RI)
 May 5 – Cinco de Mayo
 May 6 – National Nurses Day
 May 6 – National Teacher Appreciation Day
 May 8 – Truman Day (MO)
 May 8 – Victory in Europe Day
 May 9 – Confederate Memorial Day (SC)
 May 9 – Native American Day (WY)
 May 9 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day (DE)
 May 10 – Confederate Memorial Day (SC & NC)
 May 11 – Mother's Day
 May 15 – Peace Officers Memorial Day
 May 16 – National Defense Transportation Day
 May 17 – Public Lands Day (CO)
 May 17 – Armed Forces Day
 May 17 – Preakness Stakes (Sporting Event)
 May 21 – Emergency Medical Services for Children Day
 May 22 – National Maritime Day
 May 22 – Harvey Milk Day (CA)
 May 25 – National Missing Children's Day
 May 26 – Memorial Day
 May 26 – Jefferson Davis' Birthday (MISSISSIPPI)

There are many other religious and regional holidays to celebrate. For worldwide holidays and observances: <https://www.Timeanddate.com/holidays/>.

Genealogy Presentation Links

Type Ames Public Library and click on "From Ames Public Library" link on top-right.

Link to Genealogy Plus with Lori Kappmeyer on
 "Researching House History and their Inhabitants"
[Genealogy Plus | April 2025](#)

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May. It was formerly known as Decoration Day and commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day and it is traditionally seen as the start of the summer season. From www.timeanddate.com website.

Peace Officers Memorial Day

Peace Officers Memorial Day is held annually in the United States on May 15 in honor of federal, state and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty. It is observed in conjunction with Police Week. From www.timeanddate.com website.

Mother's Day

Mother's Day in the United States celebrates motherhood on the second Sunday of May. A day to honor mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, and all motherly figures. From www.timeanddate.com website.

National Maritime Day

May 22 is National Maritime Day in the United States each year. This day reflects the gratitude that Americans have for the maritime industry and the benefits it brings to the country. It also recognizes ships and seafarers who have held a special place in the nation's history. From www.timeanddate.com website.

Victory in Europe Day – May 8th, 2025

Although Victory in Europe Day is not a public holiday, businesses and schools may be closed because it falls on the same date as [Truman Day](#) in 2025, which is a public holiday in Missouri. From www.timeanddate.com website.

Cambridge Library

SCGS members will make 2 trips to the Cambridge Library to help them show people how to trace their heritage. This is all part of the SCGS continuing teaching other libraries and organizations how to trace their heritage.

Programming Ideas (Think About This Over the Summer)

One of the goals of the Story County Genealogical Society is quality programming for our members and guests. To that end, planning has begun for the 2025-2026 years. And you can be a part of the process!!

1. What types of programs would you like to have for SCGS Monday night meetings and Wednesday morning Genealogy Plus?

Do you have a genealogy tale, success story, or brick wall challenge you would like to share? (It would not have to be an entire program.)

What types of former programs have you found useful?

Is there a particular genealogy concept or database you would like to learn more about?

Do you use a genealogy software program? If so, which one?

Planning for the 2025-2026 year is underway and we welcome your suggestions!

2. Here is where we could use your assistance if you are interested:

SCGS would like to open the Monday evening programs to members who are interested in giving a presentation. It *could* be 30-45 minutes in length, but it doesn't need to be! Shorter talks or demonstrations are welcome.

Here's a thought: the SCGS Board has decided the January and February 2026 Monday night meetings will be online only due to unpredictability of winter weather. That means you could give a presentation from the comfort of your home via Zoom. (We will help you with the technicalities of presenting via Zoom if you want assistance.)

Only the Monday, September 8, program has been scheduled so far.

Please give it some thought and think about what you can share with other SCGS members!

(One final hint: do you have a challenging brick wall? You could write up a summary of what you have so far, places you have searched, techniques you have used ... and we could suggest ideas for a solution.)

Questions or suggestion: email info@storygenes.com or webmanager@storygenes.com

Please let us know what you think!

Sincerely,
Mary J. Lohr, Web Manager
Story County Genealogical Society

Please note: Suggesting a program or speaker does NOT bind you to presenting the program or speaker (although if you want to volunteer, that would be wonderful!)

Ideas and comments can be sent to info@storygenes.com or webmanager@storygenes.com or mentioned at a regular SCGS meeting.

SCGS Bylaws and AI

The bylaws committee has been busy reviewing and updating the Story County Genealogy Society's bylaws. As per Article VIII (3) this is a task that should be done yearly (last done in 2019). The suggested new version of the bylaws is posted on the home page of the Society's website (storygenes.com). If you have comments, please send them to: webmanager@storygenes.com. We will review any comments for improvement of these bylaws. **The ratification will be done at the May society meeting-- May 12, 2025.**

Since my presentation this year was on AI and Genealogy, I thought I would see what Perplexity had to say about the proposed changes to the bylaws. Following is the response from perplexity.ai with slight editing.

Story County Genealogical Society: A Tale of Two Bylaws

"A recent review of the Story County Genealogical Society's governing documents, revealed some interesting changes in the organization's structure and operations. Let's take a closer look at the key differences between the current and proposed documents.

Board Structure Overhaul

The most significant change is in the composition of the Board of Directors. The 2019 version outlined a board of ten elected officers, including specific roles such as vice president for programming and vice president for membership. In contrast, the newer bylaws streamline the board to just four elected officers: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Flexible Leadership Roles

While reducing the number of elected positions, the new bylaws introduce a more flexible approach to leadership. They allow for appointed directors to handle specific functions such as librarian, membership secretary, and technology director. This change allows for more agility in assigning responsibilities based on the society's current needs.

Modernizing Operations

The updated bylaws reflect a more modern approach to society operations. For instance, they explicitly mention the maintenance of the society's website and social media presence, tasks assigned to the new role of technology director.

Streamlined Committees

The committee structure has been simplified in the new version. While both documents mention several committees, the newer bylaws place more emphasis on the program and education committee, reflecting a focus on the society's educational mission.

Financial Oversight

Both versions of the bylaws emphasize financial responsibility, but the new document specifies an internal audit committee to review the previous year's financial records by the March meeting. This change suggests a more structured approach to financial oversight[2].

Looking Ahead

These changes reflect an organization adapting to new challenges and opportunities in genealogical research and society management. By streamlining its leadership structure and embracing technology, the Story County Genealogical Society is poised to continue its mission of fostering interest in genealogy well into the future.

As with any organizational change, the true test will be in the implementation. Members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these new bylaws and actively participate in shaping the society's future."

James Anderegg and Perplexity.ai

Checking on Grandma

My sons are 6th generation Iowa Ballards, descendants of Dr. Moses Russell Ballard. On their father's side, they are the 4th generation descendants of Great Grandma Frances Rebecca Baker Coffie Selden. I interacted with Grandma Selden several times.

After one of Grandma Selden's visits to Iowa, my sons and I took her to the bus station in downtown Des Moines in 1969. At 85 she would ride the bus more than 14 hours alone to her home in Lamar, CO. There had been a terrible snowstorm and there was no close parking. I might be able to carry one child and drag the other from somewhere far away, but I could not do that and help her and carry her suitcase too. I finally parked illegally and took her to the door of her bus.

Just as she moved to the front of the line to her bus, she turned to me and said "I didn't tell Mae and Guy but for the last few mornings, I have been feeling faint when I first sat up. In fact, I would pass out for a bit. I just didn't want to worry them. Goodbye now."

I put her on that bus thinking it would be the death of her and wondering "Why me? Why me?"

She made it that time.

In 1972, Mae, my mother-in-law, would keep Dan and Chris. It was the first time for me to leave them and I said "Take good care of my loves."

She answered right back "Same to you."

Rich and Barb would take their baby along—in 1972 he was about 8 months and breastfed so seemed like it could work. Four drivers so we decided to drive the 14 hours straight through.

Barb said "I woke up when the baby flew across the back seat and hit the door. Pat woke up first though and that was good because she was driving."

After 14 hours of almost constant driving, we arrived exhausted and ready to sleep. Barb and Rich with baby Brian took Grandma's bedroom and Frazier and I in the other. We pulled back the covers and collapsed. We woke in the morning covered in sandy, gritty stuff. It seems that the aunt and uncle who had checked on Grandma earlier had let their cat have the run of the place and the place it used for kitty crap was between the pillows on the bed where we slept.

At the care center, Grandma was doing well. Her hip was on the mend and she was looking forward to returning to her house in Lamar, Colorado. She had 7 rocking chairs in her home and she drank hot water as though it were tea. She was tired of saying no to tea and coffee—just hot water, please.

While waiting to see her one visit, I listened to a man talk about his driving. He said "I am 95 now and I don't mind picking up my lady friends to take them to church but I keep waking up while driving and not always knowing just where I am so I think I might have to stop driving." At 84, I understand that better now.

Continued on page 8, column 1 (**Grandma**)

Continued from page 7 (**Grandma**)

In 1984, at her 100th birthday party in Iowa where she was then living, she leaned forward toward me and said "You were sending letters about two or three times a month. It has been 3 months now since you've written." I said I would get right on that.

One of her wins, besides out-living three husbands and making it to 101 years of age, was adding salt again to her mashed potatoes in her Care Center near Altoona IA. Mae and Guy said something like "Oh, for heaven's sake, let her have some salt!"

Grandma Selden and those trips...I still remember but it helps to have kept letters and such from that time.

Patricia Rose Ballard Coffie

The quick answer about Grandma Selden:

Maiden name: Frances Rebecca Baker

Born Oct 1884, Steamboat Rock, Iowa

Died Dec 1984

Her father was James Newton Baker. He was a veteran of the Civil War, riding with Co A of the 12th Illinois Cavalry. He lived from 1843 to 1924.

Dan April 28, 1964, Chris August 27, 1968, Brian Nov. 1, 1971

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The SCGS Board decided its March meeting that it was time for one Help Session at the Ames Public Library. It will be:

Saturday, June 7, 1- 3 PM in the Danfoss Room

Assistance would be appreciated.

A Smooth Path to Membership: Joining or Renewing with SCGS

We're glad you're interested in joining or continuing your membership with the Story County Genealogical Society (SCGS)! We strive to make the process as seamless as possible through our website, www.storygenes.com.

Occasionally, however, technical hiccups can occur. If you encounter any difficulties while joining or renewing online, please don't worry! We have a couple of alternative methods to ensure a smooth experience:

Option 1: Explore Our Alternative Online Portal

We also offer a slightly different interface for online joining and renewals through our backup website: storygenes.org. This portal utilizes PayPal.me for transactions.

You can access it directly via this link: <https://www.storygenes.org/joinrenew>

Important: If you use this link, please include "**membership**" in the notes or description field during the payment process.

For added convenience, the above link also features an optional QR code that you can scan with your mobile device.

Option 2: The Traditional Mail-In Method

Of course, the reliable "classic" method is always available! You can find our membership form in each issue of this newsletter or easily download it from either our main website (www.storygenes.com) or our backup site (storygenes.org). Simply print the form, complete it, and mail it along with your check to:

Story County Genealogical Society, PO Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

No matter which method you choose, please know that your membership is deeply valued. We are committed to helping you "**Connect You with Your Heritage**" and appreciate your continued support of the Story County Genealogical Society. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at www.webmanager@storygenes.com.

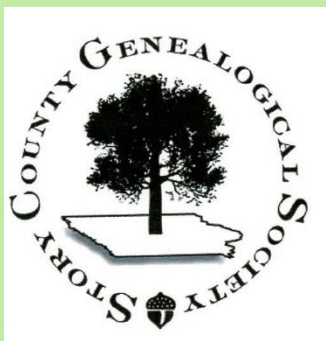
Thoroughfares in Ames, Iowa #3 - SCGS Word Search

G	O	L	D	E	N	L	E	A	F	G	H	A	N	O	Z	I	R	A
A	K	J	M	N	I	P	O	D	R	Z	Z	D	X	C	F	R	E	B
R	A	S	S	T	Y	P	R	I	I	J	O	A	B	V	V	A	X	R
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R	G	R	A	B	I	I	T	O	O	A	K	L	A	N	D	L	I	F

Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal and may be backward

Answers can be found at [Word Search Answers](#) on the SCGS website

ABRAHAM	BLUEBERRY	GOLDENLEAF	KENTUCKY	OAKLAND
ADAMS	BRIGGS	GREENSBORO	KNAPP	PAMMEL
ALABAMA	CRESCENT	HUTCHISON	LETTIE	PHILADELPHIA
ARIZONA	DESMOINES	IOWA	MARSHALL	PHOENIX
BALSAM	FRILEY	JOHNSON	NEVADA	RELIABLE
BAYBERRY	GARFIELD	KENMARIL	NORTHCREST	ROYKEY



Logo design by Karen
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OR

Donations (Voluntary)

Make checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society

Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____ Birthday: ____/____/____

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Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

Credit cards and PayPal are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

Individual Membership - \$20

Family Membership - \$25

(12-month membership period)

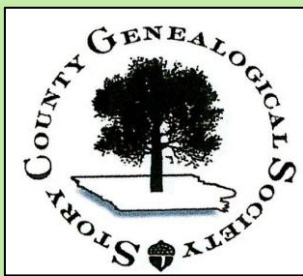
Make checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society

Editor's Column

Don't forget to mark the date and time for the Help Session on June 7th.

Please be sure to attend the May 12th Regular Meeting of SCGS. We will discuss and then vote on the new bylaws that are printed in their entirety on the SCGS website (www.storygenes.com). Please be ready to discuss them.

Dick



Logo Design by
Karen Pattee David

SCGS NEWS

“Helping You Connect with Your Heritage”

Story County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 692
Ames, Iowa 50010

www.storygenes.com
email: info@storygenes.com
Facebook.com/storygenes

September 2025
Volume 58, Issue 9

President's Message



Hope everyone had a good summer and got some Genealogy done and made new discoveries or broke brick walls. When found out that Mary Lohr was moving to Sioux Falls and she found out a group of Norwegians settled in that area, I knew I had a couple of distant cousins living in Sioux Falls but did some checking and found out that had many relatives migrate in that direction for one reason or another. So warned Mary that she could run into any of my Norwegian cousins at any time.

Story County Genealogical Society held a couple of classes at the Cambridge Library. Those who attended asked some very good questions and I hope we were able to get them on the right path for new discoveries in their family history.

Our first Society meeting will be September 8 and Dennis Allen will be there to help us better understand our DNA findings. Bring your questions and concerns and we will all learn together. The meeting will be starting at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Doug Jacobson will be telling us about Computer Security at the first Genealogy Plus session on September 17.

Off to a very interesting start and remember if you have a topic you want to know more about or heard a presentation given by someone, please let me know.

Thanks, and see everyone at 6:00 on September 8.

NOTE: Nancy's October article is in page 3.

Nancy

Story County Genealogical Society

Monday October 13, 2025

6:30 PM

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

"Telling the Story of Sgt. Robert W. Wilson in World War II"

See Page 3 also

Presenter: John Wilson (SCGS member)

Genealogy Plus

Wednesday October 15, 2025

10:00 AM - Noon

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

"The Faces of Agriculture"

See Page 3 also

Presenter: Dr. Paul Lasley

Just A Few Items Inside This Issue

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Check on Grandma	Page 7
Membership	Page 8

Story County Genealogical Society (SCGS)
May 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Ames Public Library and by Zoom Video

Present: 11 at the library, 9 online

President Nancy Long called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Marv Rohn and Ron Brott, members of the Wild Rose Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, presented the program on Germans from Russia.

In 1763 Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia, approved a new colonization policy. At the end of the Seven Years War, a manifesto was timed to appeal to war and tax weary Europeans. Copies of the Manifesto were distributed throughout Europe, but with a focus in the German speaking lands where much of the war had been fought. These lands had no national government and were comprised of a large number of small principalities, counties, duchies and city states that were part of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation.

Among the promises made to the colonists in Catherine's Manifesto was exemption from military service, freedom of religion, a 30-year exemption from taxes, land provided at no cost and travel expenses paid by the Russian government. About 23,000 came. There were two primary settlements, Volga River and Black Sea areas.

More than 100 years later, in 1871, Czar Alexander II, grandson of Catherine, revoked the preferential rights and privileges given to the colonist settlers. By the end of the 19th century, there were about 1.8 million Germans in Russia. In 1874, Russia instituted universal military service.

In the about 150 years in Russia, the Germans kept their language, foods and customs. The Germans were primarily Lutherans, Catholics and Mennonites. In the 1890s Russians started migrating to Canada, Brazil, Argentina and the United States. The U.S. was attractive because the Homestead Act promised them 160 acres if they lived on the farms. The Volga Germans became closely associated with the sugar beet industry in Colorado and western Nebraska, while most Black Sea

Continued in next column (**Minutes**)

Continued from previous column (**Minutes**)

Germans became wheat growers in the Dakotas and in Canada; some later became orchard and grape growers in California.

Today few descendants of Germans are left in Russia. During WWII the Germans were sent to Siberia. The German churches were remodeled to be shops or other needs during Stalin's time as head of the Communist Party.

In 1968, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) was founded in Colorado as a nonprofit educational organization engaged in researching the history of all German Russians. In 1973, the AHSGR office was relocated to Lincoln, Nebraska. The AHSGR museum and library contain the largest collection of Germans from Russia documentation, literature and artifacts in the western hemisphere.
<https://ahsgr.org/museum/>

Business Meeting

- ☐ Treasurer Pete Peterson gave his report.
- ☐ The minutes of the April 14, 2025 meeting were approved.
- ☐ Story County Genealogy Society currently has 64 members.
- ☐ The Ames Public Library has the seven new research books but are not on the shelves yet.

Motion (Gwenna Jacobson/Jim Anderegg)/passed: Vote on society bylaws in September 2025.

Upcoming Events

Genealogy Plus

Wednesday, May 21, 10 a.m., Ames, Public Library and Zoom

Program: Genealogy Tools

Presenter: Megan Klein-Hewett

Beginning Genealogy Class - "Genealogy is for Everybody"

Thursday, June 5 and 19, 6 p.m., Cambridge Memorial Library

Genealogy Help Session

Saturday, June 7, 1 p.m., Ames Public Library

Co-sponsored by the Ames Public Library

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette Spicer, Secretary

Upcoming Events At SCGS

Monday October 13, 2025

**In-Person Meeting at Library and Zoom
Zoom meeting link to be sent to members
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

**“Telling the Story of Sgt. Robert W. Wilson
in world War II”**

Presenter: Mr. John Wilson (member)

Wednesday October 15, 2025

**In-Person Meeting at Library and Zoom
Zoom meeting link to be sent to members
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

**“Through photographs of rural life, Dr.
Lasley will help genealogists envision the life
of their ancestors and their neighbors in
rural areas.”**

Presenter: Dr. Paul Lasley

**Please read page 6 for information on the
September Events**

President’s September Article

Very good start to our new year with being able to ask Dennis Allen many things about DNA and he gave us places to check and share our facts to maybe find and connect with more of our relatives.

Dr. Doug Jacobson gave us many tips on how to keep our computer safe with all the threats that are out there now and new ones showing up. Many good questions asked.

Really enjoyed going to Story City and learning what the Library, Historical Society and the LDS church in Story City has to offer. Hopefully we were able to provide some more places for people to go to do their research. I think next month will be just as interesting.

Nancy

AMES HISTORY MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS



NOTE: Picture is from Ames Historical Museum website

You can go to <https://ameshistory.org> and register or call 515-232-2148 or go to the Contact Us page to send them a message via email. Visit their website above and click on “ABOUT US and then click on Calendar of Events and you will be taken to calendars. If you believe that an event is taking place but omitted from the calendar, you can call the number above.

Other interesting exhibits may be available also. Check other interesting items in the “drop-down” menus for more information.

Ames History Museum is located at 416 Douglas Ave #101, Ames, Iowa 50010, 515 232 2148.

Hillbilly Wisdom

You may have heard some of these before

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig tight and bull strong. Keep skunks, bankers, and politicians at a distance.

If you don’t take the time to do it right, you’ll find the time to do it twice.

Don’t corner something that is meaner than you.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Every path has a few puddles.

Silence is sometimes the best answer.

Holidays and Other Reasons to Celebrate September 2025

September 1 – Labor Day
September 6 – Carl Garner Federal Lands Cleanup Day
September 6 – Native American Day (DE)
September 7 – National Grandparents Day
September 9 – California Admission Day (CA)
September 11 – First Responders Day (NC)
September 11 – Patriot Day
September 11 – World Trade Centers – “Never Forget”
September 14 – Constitution Commemoration Day
September 15 – First Day of National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 17 – Constitution Day & Citizenship Day
September 18 – Air Force Birthday
September 19 – National POW/MIA Recognition Day
September 22 – American Indian Day (TN)
September 22 – September Equinox
September 26 – Native American Day (CA, NV)
September 26 – American Indian Heritage Day MT, TX
September 26 – Michigan Indian Day (MI)
September 27 – Public Lands Day (WY)
September 28 – Gold Star Mother’s Day

There are many other religious and regional holidays to celebrate. For worldwide holidays and observances: <https://www.Timeanddate.com/holidays/>.

Other interesting exhibits may be available also. Check other interesting items in the “drop-down” menus for more information.

Ames History Museum is located at 416 Douglas Ave #101, Ames, Iowa 50010, 515 232 2148.

Holidays and Other Reasons to Celebrate October 2025

October 6 – German American Day
October 6 – Frances Xavier Cabrini Day (CO)
October 6 – Child Health Day
October 9 – Leif Erikson Day (CO)
October 11 – Robert E. Lee’s Birthday (AR)
October 11 – Casimir Pulaski Day (MA, MI, RI)
October 12 – Chicago Marathon (Tentative Date)
October 13 – Navy Birthday
October 13 – Columbus Day (22 states & TN)
October 13 – Fraternal Day (AL)
October 13 – Yorktown Victory Day (VA)
October 13 – Discoverers’ Day (HI)
October 13 – Native American Day (SD, OK)
October 13 – Indigenous People’s Day (28 states, DC, ME, NE, NM, MI, MN)
October 13 – American Indian Heritage Day (AL)
October 15 – White Cane Safety Day
October 16 – Boss’s Day
October 17 – Alaska Day observed (Alaska)
October 18 – Alaska Day (Alaska)
October 18 – Sweetest Day (13 states)
October 31 – Halloween
October 31 – State Holiday (NV)

There are many other religious and regional holidays to celebrate. For worldwide holidays and observances: <https://www.Timeanddate.com/holidays/>.

Programming Ideas (Think About This Over the Summer)

One of the goals of the Story County Genealogical Society is quality programming for our members and guests. To that end, planning has begun for the 2025-2026 years. And you can be a part of the process!!

1. What types of programs would you like to have for SCGS Monday night meetings and Wednesday morning Genealogy Plus?

Do you have a genealogy tale, success story, or brick wall challenge you would like to share? (It would not have to be an entire program.)

What types of former programs have you found useful?

Is there a particular genealogy concept or database you would like to learn more about?

Do you use a genealogy software program? If so, which one?

Planning for the 2025-2026 year is underway and we welcome your suggestions!

2. Here is where we could use your assistance if you are interested:

SCGS would like to open the Monday evening programs to members who are interested in giving a presentation. It *could* be 30-45 minutes in length, but it doesn't need to be! Shorter talks or demonstrations are welcome.

Here's a thought: the SCGS Board has decided the January and February 2026 Monday night meetings will be online only due to unpredictability of winter weather. That means you could give a presentation from the comfort of your home via Zoom. (We will help you with the technicalities of presenting via Zoom if you want assistance.)

Only the Monday, September 8, program has been scheduled so far.

Please give it some thought and think about what you can share with other SCGS members!

(One final hint: do you have a challenging brick wall? You could write up a summary of what you have so far, places you have searched, techniques you have used ... and we could suggest ideas for a solution.)

Questions or suggestion: email info@storygenes.com or webmanager@storygenes.com

Please let us know what you think!

Sincerely,
Mary J. Lohr, Web Manager
Story County Genealogical Society

Please note: Suggesting a program or speaker does NOT bind you to presenting the program or speaker (although if you want to volunteer, that would be wonderful!)

Ideas and comments can be sent to info@storygenes.com or webmanager@storygenes.com or mentioned at a regular SCGS meeting.

Past Events at SCGS – September, 2025**Story County Genealogical Society****Monday September 8, 2025****In-Person Meeting at Library and Zoom****Zoom meeting link to be sent to members****6:30 pm to 8:30 pm****"DNA Workshop"****Presenter: Dennis Allen****Genealogy Plus****Wednesday September 17, 2025****In-Person Meeting at Library and Zoom****10:00 am – Whenever****"Computer Security"****Presenter: Dr. Doug Jacobson**

Dr. Jacobson, a renown, expert in cybersecurity, will discuss staying safe online and how to navigate the ever-increasing threats we face in a digital world.

The programs above may have been recorded. If you wish to listen/watch the program, check the Ames Public Library or call Megan for more information.

Cambridge Library

SCGS members will make 2 trips to the Cambridge Library to help them show people how to trace their heritage. This is all part of the SCGS continuing teaching other libraries and organizations how to trace their heritage.

These 2 trips will include Beginning Genealogy Classes and getting the attendees familiar with some of the basic forms used, such as the Family Tree Charts and Family Group Sheets.

Story County Genealogical Society (SCGS)**September 2025 Meeting Minutes****Ames Public Library and by Zoom Video**

President Long called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: 13 in person and 5 zoom - total of 18

Treasurer - Pete Peterson reported that he purchased a fire box for storing current records for \$42.79 as approved by the Board and a suggestion from the last audit.

Nancy Long reported for Malvina that there are currently 63 members. She has a list of 6 books for the upcoming purchase of books in partnership with the APL.

Vote on the changed by-laws as printed in the March and April newsletter and on the website. Pete Peterson made a motion to accept the changes as published: Dick Cooper seconded. No Discussion. Motion passed.

Upcoming: Genealogy Plus is September 17 at 10 - 12 at the Library and Dr. Doug Jacobson will be telling us about Computer Security.

We have been invited to speak at the Bertha Bartlett Public Library in Story City on September 18 at 7:00 pm on "*Family History - How Do You Start*".

Dennis Allen gave a presentation on DNA. He gave us many tips and answered many questions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Long

Happy Birthday to the United States Navy



Does the Navy have two birthdays?

The official birthday of the Navy has been determined to be October 13, 1775, and is celebrated on that day. October 27, 1775, was once considered the Navy's birthday and is still celebrated unofficially by many Navy supporters as a Navy tradition.

Why is October 27th Navy Day?

The Navy League of the United States held the first Navy Day on October 27, 1922, in honor of Theodore Roosevelt's birthday, as he was an ardent Navy supporter. In the 1970s, the "birthday" of the Navy was redefined as October 13, 1775, but October 27 remains, historically, Navy Day. Learn more at <http://bit>.

Is October 13th the birthday of the Navy?

AI Overview

The United States Navy's official birthday is October 13, 1775, the date the Continental Congress established the [Continental Navy](#). To honor this day, the U.S. Navy celebrates its anniversary with various ceremonies and events, including the traditional cutting of the cake by the oldest and youngest Sailors present. 2025 marks the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Navy.

What is National Gold Star Mother's Day?

Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September each year, which this year is Sept. 28. It's a day for people to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter, husband or wife, a brother or sister while serving the United States armed forces.

Constitution Day, observed annually on September 17, commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution on that date in 1787, and also recognizes those who have become U.S. citizens. Established by Congress in 2004, this federal observance requires publicly funded educational institutions and federal agencies to provide educational programs on the Constitution. The day is dedicated to celebrating and understanding the fundamental document that shapes the U.S. legal framework and guarantees citizen rights and freedoms.



What day is the Air Force's birthday?

AI Overview

The United States Air Force's birthday is on September 18. This date commemorates the passage of the [National Security Act of 1947](#), which established the Air Force as an independent branch of the military.

How old is the Air Force?

AI Overview

The U.S. Air Force, as a separate branch of the military, is 78 years old as of September 18, 2025, because it was officially established on September 18, 1947, through the [National Security Act of 1947](#). However, its origins as a military flying service can be traced back to August 1, 1907, with the formation of the [Aeronautical Division](#), [U.S. Signal Corps](#).

Key Dates in U.S. Air Force History

- **August 1, 1907:** The U.S. Army Signal Corps formed the Aeronautical Division, creating the first precursor to the Air Force.
- **September 18, 1947:** The [United States Air Force](#) was formally established as an independent service with the enactment of the National Security Act of 1947.
- **September 18, 2025:** The U.S. Air Force celebrated its 78th birthday.

Editor's Column

Well, as you can probably see, this newsletter is really late. During the summer I had several major things on my mind but then (as usual) other major things came up too.

I made up my mind that summer would be the time to buy another car. It wasn't a new car but I moved up 7 production years from what I had. The 2017 FORD that I bought has a lot of bells and whistles on it that I elected not to get on the other car that I traded.

Then during the late summer, I got irritated at the rabbits that were around my house and some had burrowed, so that they were under the house. I looked around for someone to take care of this situation and finally found someone. Of course, the places that I tried initially were all busy because summer is their busy season.

Then, to top everything off, my computer went "south". I decided to get another computer, one that had Windows 11. I finally made the move on that, then I had to setup everything the way I wanted (that took time, too) regarding email, internet, 2 monitors and everything else. Since I'm rather "stingy" when it comes to money, I may have spent more time than normal on everything. Also, as Mary often pointed out to me: I am the one with a lot of questions.

That's just the major stuff that delayed the newsletter, but of course I had a life to live also.

I would encourage everyone to be careful when reading this newsletter. In the Events sections, I have shown the October Events on pages 1 and page 3 as normal. But the September Events are elsewhere in the newsletter since they are past events.

I'm trying to tell you that everything is in this newsletter, but it just may be in a different place. Be sure to read the whole thing.

Dick

BOOKS STORY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

All have been given Adult Nonfiction placement for patrons to check out. At this time, they are also out on the New Books shelves in Adult Nonfiction.

1. Ancestry.com: Frequently Asked Questions about Genealogy, Large Print, by Dennis Fitzgerald, published January 2024.

Adult Nonfiction - 929.1 FIT 2024

2. Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace, 4th Edition Revised, by Elizabeth Shown Mills, published January 2024.

Adult Nonfiction - 907.2 MIL 2024

3. Beginner's Guide to Genealogy: How to Get Started with Your Family Research, by Family Tree Magazine, published February 2024.

Adult Nonfiction - 929.1 BEG 2024

4. Discover Hidden Family Roots thru DNA: A Beginner's Handbook, by Mitchell E. Carrillo, published May 2024.

Adult Nonfiction - 929.1 CAR 2024

5. Journeys of the Forgotten: The Orphans of Hamilton County, Iowa, by Jill Morelli, published July 2024.

Adult Nonfiction - 977.7 MOR 2024

6. AI and Genealogy: A Practical Guide to Summarizing, Transcribing, and Translating Historical Documents, by Thomas MacEntee, published December 2024.

Adult Nonfiction - 929.1 MAC 2024

7. The Birth Certificate: An American History, by Susan J. Pearson, published November 2021.

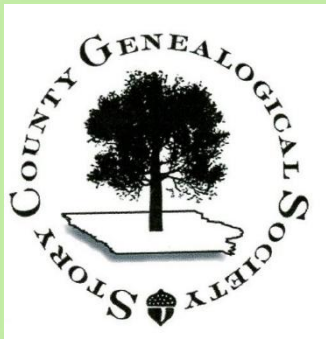
Adult Nonfiction - 929.3 PEA 2021

Farmer's Words - SCGS Word Search

H	E	E	H	E	U	U	C	P	D	L	E	I	F	W	P	D	A	E
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B	R	A	N	E	D	O	R	R	D	Z	O	G	Y	F	T	H	K	P
S	M	H	U	E	B	E	A	N	S	C	S	D	V	E	V	S	O	S
N	O	G	A	W	A	K	R	C	K	D	D	R	H	F	R	C	S	E
J	L	E	B	W	Y	F	U	C	M	S	T	E	V	S	J	U	S	E

Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal and may be backward
Answers can be found at [Word Search Answers](#) on the SCGS website

ACRE	COMBINE	FERTILIZER	MACHINE	SILO
BEANS	CORN	FIELD	RUN	TRACTOR
BUSHEL	DEERE	IOWA	SEEDCORN	WAGON
CHEVY	ELEVATOR	JOHN	SHED	WEEDS
CHEVROLET	FARM	JOHNDEERE	SHOP	WIFE



Logo design by Karen
Pattee David

STORY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Send dues and donations to P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

Credit Cards are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

Membership - Individual \$20 ____ or Family (2) \$25 ____

OR

Donations (Voluntary)

Make checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society

Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____ Birthday: ____/____/____

Story County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 692

Ames, Iowa 50010

Membership dues and donations can be sent to SCGS by:

SCGS, P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

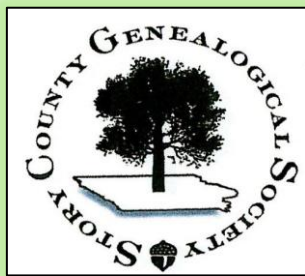
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(12-month membership period)

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Logo Design by
Karen Pattee David

SCGS NEWS

“Helping You Connect with Your Heritage”

Story County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 692
Ames, Iowa 50010

www.storygenes.com
email: info@storygenes.com
[Facebook.com/storygenes](https://www.facebook.com/storygenes)

November 2025
Volume 58, Issue 11



President's Message

September 8: Very good start to our new year with being able to ask Dennis Allen many things about DNA and he gave us places to check and share our facts to maybe find and connect with more of our relatives.

September 17: Dr. Doug Jacobson gave us many tips on how to keep our computer safe with all the threats are out there now and new ones showing up. Many good questions asked.

Really enjoyed going to Story City and learning what the Library, Historical Society and the LDS church in Story City has to offer. Hopefully we were able to provide some more places for people to go to do their research. I think next month will be just as interesting.

For October we had a very interesting speaker, John Wilson (SCGS member). He told us the story of his father serving in WW11.

In October we also heard Paul Lasley give us lots of ideas that could be included when writing our Family History for Genealogy Plus.

November is our Annual Meeting and after a short Business Meeting we will have a time to share and discuss some topics. They are listed on our website but will list them here so you can have time to check them over.

Continued on page 2, right column (Nancy Article)

Story County Genealogical Society

Monday November 10, 2025

6:30 PM

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

ANNUAL MEETING

&

GENERAL DISCUSSION

See Page 3 also

Genealogy Plus

Wednesday November 19, 2025

10:00 AM - Noon

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

“Tales from Slovenia: A Visit to My Ancestral Country”

See Page 3 also

Just A Few Items Inside This Issue

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Story County Genealogical Society (SCGS)
September 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Ames Public Library and by Zoom Video

Present: 13 at the library, 5 online

President Nancy Long called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Treasurer - Pete Peterson reported that he purchased a fire box for storing current records for \$42.79 as approved by the Board and a suggestion from the last audit.

Nancy Long reported for Malvina that there are currently 63 members. She has a list of 6 books for the upcoming purchase of books in partnership with the Ames Public Library.

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Upcoming: Genealogy Plus is September 17 at 10 - 12 at the Library and Dr. Doug Jacobson will be telling us about Computer Security.

We have been invited to speak at the Bertha Bartlett Public Library in Story City on September 18 at 7:00 on Family History - How Do You Start.

Dennis Allen gave a very good presentation on DNA. He gave us many tips and answered many questions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.
Nancy Long

REMEMBER
NO DECEMBER
MEETING

Continued from page 1, left column (Nancy article)

- Let's talk about our Family Tree.
- Who owns the date and research?
- How (and if) do you want to share it?
- How will you preserve your research?
- What options are available for printing and preserving your Family Tree?
- Are there free and useful Genealogy websites?
- Lots of good topics.

Also, one last thing - we are still in need of VP of Education (see article in this newsletter). We would really like to get this position filled and take the pressure off the Board. Please step up and say you will help. Thanks.

Nancy

**If mama ain't happy...
ain't nobody happy.**

**If Grandma ain't happy
RUN!!!**

Upcoming Events At SCGS

Monday November 10, 2025

**In-Person Meeting at Library and Zoom
Zoom meeting link to be sent to members
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

ANNUAL MEETING & DISCUSSION AMONG MEMBERS

Let's talk about your family tree! Who owns the date and research? How (and if) do you want to share it? How will you preserve your research? What about options are available for printing and displaying your family tree?

Are there any free, and useful, genealogy websites?

Wednesday November 19, 2025

**In-Person Meeting at Library and Zoom
Zoom meeting link to be sent to members
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

“Dr. Orazem will share his experience of visiting his ancestral county of Slovenia and tell some family stories of his trips.”

Presenter: Dr. Peter Orazem



AMES HISTORY MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

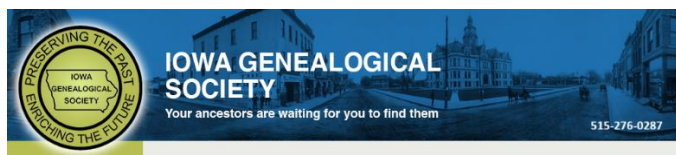


NOTE: Picture is from Ames Historical Museum website

You can go to <https://ameshistory.org> and register or call 515-232-2148 or go to the Contact Us page to send them a message via email. Visit their website above and click on “ABOUT US and then click on Calendar of Events and you will be taken to calendars. If you believe that an event is taking place but omitted from the calendar, you can call the number above.

Other interesting exhibits may be available also. Check other interesting items in the “drop-down” menus for more information.

Ames History Museum is located at 416 Douglas Ave #101, Ames, Iowa 50010, 515 232 2148.



The Iowa Genealogical Society (IGS) is located at 628 E Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA. 50309-1924
The telephone number is 515-276-0287 and email address is igs@iowagenealogy.org.

SCGS is a member of the IGS and suggests that you visit their library. Visit the IGS website to discover the many military, vital records, family histories, international and other items available at IGS. A look through the website menu will yield many ideas.

“Your ancestors are waiting for you to find them”

Holidays and Other Reasons to Celebrate November 2025

November 1 – First Day of Native American Heritage Month

November 2 – New York City Marathon

November 2 – Daylight Saving Time Ends (article)

November 4 – Election Day

November 10 – Marine Corps Birthday (article)

November 10 – Barack Obama Day

November 11 – Veterans Day (article)

November 19 – George Rogers Clark Day

November 27 – Thanksgiving (article)

November 28 – State Holiday (GA)

November 28 – President's Day (NM)

November 28 – Lincoln's Birthday/Lincoln Day (IN)

November 28 – Day After Thanksgiving (22 states)

November 28 – Black Friday

November 28 – American Indian Heritage Day (MD)

November 28 – Native American Heritage Day (WA)

November 28 – Native American Heritage Day

November 29 – Nellie Tayloe Ross' Birthday (WY)

There are many other religious and regional holidays to celebrate. For worldwide holidays and observances: <https://www.Timeanddate.com/holidays/>.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time (DST) is the practice of advancing clocks to make better use of daylight during the longer days of summer.

Typically, clocks are set forward by one hour in spring and set back by one hour in autumn. This practice aims to extend evening daylight, allowing for more outdoor activities after work or school.

In the United States, DST starts on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November.

For more detailed information, you can visit the Wikipedia page on Daylight Saving Time. www.Wikipedia.com.

Other Holidays to Celebrate but Not Well Known

November 2 – Zero Tasking Day

November 2 – Deviled Eggs Day

November 3 – Sandwich Day

November 4 – Common Sense Day

November 6 – Men Make Dinner Day

November 6 – Saxophone Day

November 8 – Tongue Twister Day

November 9 – Chaos Never Dies Day

November 10 – Vanilla Cupcake Day

November 12 – Happy Hour Day

November 13 – World Kindness Day

November 14 – Pickle Day

November 15 – Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day

November 22 – Go For a Ride Day

November 29 – Buy Nothing Day

There are many more funny holidays that happen every day.

US MARINE CORP BIRTHDAY

The Marine Corps Birthday is one of the biggest social events of the year for leathernecks all over the world.

On 10 November 1775, the Second Continental Congress resolved to raise two battalions of Marines. Congress commissioned thirty-one year old Samuel Nicholas, a well-known Philadelphian, as captain of the fledgling force of Continental Marines.

From Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, Nicholas raised two battalions of Marines as directed and began the long illustrious history of the United States Marine Corps. Every year since 1925 the founding of the Marine Corps has been celebrated with a Birthday Ball.

Source: <https://www.mca-marines.org/resource/marine-corps-birthday/>

Question: Did you know that the Marines Corps was originally part of the United States Navy??

PROGRAMMING IDEAS (Think About This)

One of the goals of the Story County Genealogical Society is quality programming for our members and guests. To that end, planning has begun for the 2026 year. And you can be a part of the process!!

1. What types of programs would you like to have for SCGS Monday night meetings and Wednesday morning Genealogy Plus?

Do you have a genealogy tale, success story, or brick wall challenge you would like to share? (It would not have to be an entire program.)

- What types of former programs have you found useful?
- Is there a particular genealogy concept or database you would like to learn more about?
- Do you use a genealogy software program? If so, which one?

Planning for the 2026 year is underway and we welcome your suggestions!

2. Here is where we could use your assistance if you are interested:

SCGS would like to open the Monday evening programs to members who are interested in giving a presentation. It *could* be 30-45 minutes in length, but it doesn't need to be! Shorter talks or demonstrations are welcome.

Here's a thought: the SCGS Board has decided the January and February 2026 Monday night meetings will be online only due to unpredictability of winter weather. That means you could give a presentation from the comfort of your home via Zoom. (We will help you with the technicalities of presenting via Zoom if you want assistance.)

Please give it some thought and think about what you can share with other SCGS members!

(One final hint: do you have a challenging brick wall? You could write up a summary of what you have so far, places you have searched, techniques you have used ... and we could suggest ideas for a solution.)

Questions or suggestion: email info@storygenes.com or webmanager@storygenes.com

Please let us know what you think!

www.storygenes.com
Story County Genealogical Society

Please note: Suggesting a program or speaker does NOT bind you to presenting the program or speaker (although if you want to volunteer, that would be wonderful!)

Ideas and comments can be sent to info@storygenes.com or webmanger@storygenes.com or mentioned at a regular SCGS meeting.

ABOUT VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day is observed every year on Nov. 11. Veterans Day evolved from Armistice Day, which was proclaimed in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson.

Armistice Day recognizes the end of World War I, when fighting ceased at the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month in 1918. (Nov. 11th at 11 A.M, 1918).

On Nov. 11, 1947 Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized a “National Veterans Day” parade in Birmingham, Alabama, to recognize veterans of all wars, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

According to the Emporia Convention and Visitors Bureau official site, “In 1953 Veterans Day was organized and celebrated in Emporia, Kansas; one year prior to the first nationwide observance on Nov. 11, 1954.”

These celebrations may have influenced Congress to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day in 1954 to recognize veterans of all U.S. wars.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower made Nov. 11 the official national observance of Veterans Day after Kansas Congressman Ed Rees (who was from Emporia) proposed the bill in Congress to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

According to History.com, Veterans Day wasn’t always held on Nov. 11. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Holidays Bill, moving Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October beginning in 1971. But, in 1975 President Gerald Ford returned the observance to Nov. 11. See our [Veterans Day Facts](#) infographic.

Veterans Day Moment of Silence

On Veterans Day, Americans observe a two-minute moment of silence **beginning at 3:11 p.m.** Atlantic standard time to honor of the service and sacrifice of veterans throughout history.

People in different time zones can observe the moment of silence at these times:

- Central Standard Time: 1:11p.m.

[The Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act](#) become law in 2016.

Difference Between Veterans Day and Memorial Day

Memorial Day is for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of a wound sustained in battle.

Veterans Day is intended to thank all those who honorably served in the military – in wartime or peacetime.

Source website: [Veterans Day 2025](#)

THANK YOU TO VETERANS OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE SERVICE

THANKSGIVING IS FOR EVERYONE

Yes, that's right – Thanksgiving is for everyone. It doesn't matter if you are alone, working, traveling, EATING, watching football, volunteering, with friends or family or just doing nothing.

On Thursday, November 27, 2025 you should be celebrating Thanksgiving. Everyone has many things to be thankful for, whether you know it or not. Just think about all of the things that you have that others may not have and you should be thankful for that.

In many areas, the next day after Thanksgiving is a BIG shopping day with many specials in many stores. It also may be a time to rest-up for the December holidays, which are right around the corner.

Have a good time, no matter what you do.



WEIRD FACTS ABOUT THE HUMAN BODY

1. You shed around 30,000 skin cells every minute.
2. Your stomach acid can dissolve metal.
3. You're taller in the morning than at night.
4. NO 4. Your brain uses more energy than a fridge light.
5. Your heartbeat changes to match the music you hear.
6. You blink about 20 times a minute. That's 28,000 times a day.
7. Your bones are stronger than concrete, gram for gram.
8. If you are not following us, you might not see us again.

Source: Facebook

MY PARENTS SPANKED ME AS A CHILD

AS A RESULT, I NOW SFFER FROM A PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITION KNOWN AS RESPECT FOR OTHERS

It's perfectly OK to talk to yourself and it's perfectly OK to answer yourself. But it's totally sad that you have to repeat what you said because you weren't listening.

Editor's Column

Well, I'm back to being 1 day late again. I guess that's better than 2 months late. I'll try to catch up!!!

In the Word Search you will notice that there are a lot of big words. It was harder to put all of the words into 1 search this time though. You will notice that this is a partial list of Genealogical Internet companies that we may be familiar with and some that we may not be. This is not a complete list. A full list would probably take all of this newsletter.

There are some important articles in this newsletter. United States Marine Corp birthday, Veterans Day to celebrate the "war to end all wars", and Thanksgiving. We should all thank our Marines and other service men protecting this country and everyone has something to be thankful for during Thanksgiving although we may not think of it every day.

This issue has a little bit of humor. If I get some articles or information from SCGS members I will be glad to delete the humor articles in future newsletters.

Dick

**I Am A Seenager (Senior Teenager)
I have everything that I wanted as
a teenager, only 60 years later.**

I don't have to go to school or work.

I get an allowance every month.

I have my own pad.

I don't have a curfew.

I have a driving licence and my own car.

The people I hang around with are not
scared of getting pregnant. They aren't
scared of anything. They have been blessed
to live this long, so why be scared?

And I don't have acne.

Life is great!

A Smooth Path to Membership: Joining or Renewing with SCGS

We're glad you're interested in joining or continuing your membership with the Story County Genealogical Society (SCGS)! We strive to make the process as seamless as possible through our website,
www.storygenes.com.

Occasionally, however, technical hiccups can occur. If you encounter any difficulties while joining or renewing online, please don't worry! We have a couple of alternative methods to ensure a smooth experience:

Option 1: Explore Our Alternative Online Portal

We also offer a slightly different interface for online joining and renewals through our backup website: storygenes.org. This portal utilizes PayPal.me for transactions.

You can access it directly via this link:
<https://www.storygenes.org/joinrenew>

Important: If you use this link, please include **"membership"** in the notes or description field during the payment process.

For added convenience, the above link also features an optional QR code that you can scan with your mobile device.

Option 2: The Traditional Mail-In Method

Of course, the reliable "classic" method is always available! You can find our membership form in each issue of this newsletter or easily download it from either our main website (www.storygenes.com) or our backup site (storygenes.org). Simply print the form, complete it, and mail it along with your check to:

Story County Genealogical Society, PO Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

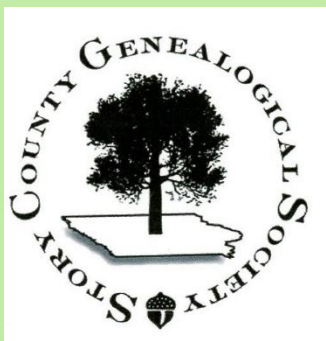
No matter which method you choose, please know that your membership is deeply valued. We are committed to helping you **"Connect You with Your Heritage"** and appreciate your continued support of the Story County Genealogical Society. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at www.webmanager@storygenes.com.

Genealogical Sources and Programs - SCGS Word Search

F	A	F	I	K	M	D	E	T	I	N	U	E	R	S	E	N	E	G
A	N	C	E	S	T	R	Y	C	C	O	U	R	T	H	O	U	S	E
M	Y	B	I	L	L	I	O	N	G	R	A	V	E	S	E	J	U	N
I	T	N	L	W	W	C	F	D	N	A	L	S	I	S	I	L	L	E
L	M	U	I	D	N	E	P	K	N	I	L	F	U	R	T	W	Q	A
Y	U	Q	B	W	Z	N	I	Z	C	X	D	S	A	A	G	T	R	L
S	S	K	R	L	L	S	N	E	R	V	G	N	J	S	N	S	S	O
E	E	M	A	U	I	U	T	Y	D	E	A	D	F	R	E	D	S	G
A	U	V	R	C	V	S	E	E	Q	W	C	M	I	E	D	R	S	Y
R	M	E	I	H	K	R	R	L	H	G	Y	Y	N	P	R	O	E	B
C	S	C	E	U	V	E	N	E	E	S	T	P	D	A	A	O	I	A
H	Z	Z	S	R	A	C	E	E	H	G	R	A	A	P	G	T	R	N
L	K	J	H	C	H	O	T	R	G	G	E	S	G	S	E	S	E	K
T	Y	M	Y	H	E	R	I	T	A	G	E	T	R	W	L	M	T	M
B	N	B	B	E	E	D	W	I	Z	Z	W	S	A	E	T	A	E	N
Z	A	I	O	S	U	S	L	K	L	F	N	F	V	N	S	G	M	O
Y	B	E	E	N	V	E	R	I	F	I	E	D	E	D	A	I	E	P
U	T	F	U	S	G	E	N	W	E	B	D	F	R	E	C	C	C	T

Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal and may be backward
Answers can be found at [Word Search Answers](#) on the SCGS website

ANCESTRY	CENSUSRECORDS	FAMILYSEARCH	INTERNET	MYHERITAGE
BEENVERIFIED	CHURCHES	FINDAGRAVE	LEGACYTREE	NEWSPAPERS
BILLIONGRAVES	COURTHOUSE	FINDMYPAST	LIBRARIES	ROOTSMAGIC
CASTLEGARDEN	DEADFRED	GENEOLOGYBANK	LINKPENDIUM	USGENWEB
CEMETERIES	ELLISISLAND	GENESREUNITED	MUSEUMS	WIKITREE



Logo design by Karen
Pattee David

STORY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Send dues and donations to P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

Credit Cards are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

Membership - Individual \$20 ____ or Family (2) \$25 ____

OR

Donations (Voluntary)

Make checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society

Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____ Birthday: ____/____/____

Story County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 692

Ames, Iowa 50010

Membership dues and donations can be sent to SCGS by:

SCGS, P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

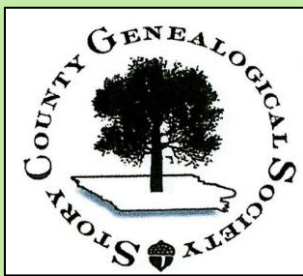
Credit cards and PayPal are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

Individual Membership - \$20

Family Membership - \$25

(12-month membership period)

Make checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society



Logo Design by
Karen Pattee David

SCGS NEWS

“Helping You Connect with Your Heritage”

Story County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 692
Ames, Iowa 50010

www.storygenes.com
email: info@storygenes.com
[Facebook.com/storygenes](https://www.facebook.com/storygenes)

December 2025
Volume 58, Issue 12

President's Message



Just got an email that Dick was putting together a newsletter for December.

I am writing this on the very snowy Saturday after Thanksgiving. It has been a very good day for Genealogy, crafting, reading, baking, Christmas decorating or just anything you want.

In reflecting about our programing so far, it has been fantastic and looking forward to the presentations lined up for 2026. Always welcome suggestions from you.

Just wanted to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and Happy Holidays.

Nancy

NOTE: This newsletter will be an “abbreviated” one because normally there isn’t a newsletter in December. I think that most of this one will be humor – but that’s OK since now we have snow and cold weather.

Things My Mother Taught Me

Circle of Life: I brought you into this world and I can take you out.

Justice: Some day you’ll have kids...and I hope they turn out just like you.

Logic: Because I said so...that’s why.

REMEMBER
NO DECEMBER
MEETINGS
SEE YOU IN
JANUARY 2026

Just A Few Items Inside This Issue

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SCGS Minutes	Page 2
Coast Guard Birthday	Page 3
Ames History Museum	Page 3
Iowa Genealogical Society	Page 3
Dates	Page 4
Pearl Harbor Remembrance	Page 5
Editor's Column	Page 6
Membership	Page 8

Story County Genealogical Society (SCGS)
November 12 Meeting Minutes
Ames Public Library and by Zoom Video

Present: 12 at the library, 7 online

President Nancy Long called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

The October 13 society minutes were approved.

Pete Peterson, treasurer, reported dues are starting to come in.

Malvina Lutz, vice president membership, reported there are currently 64 members. Most people need to renew in December or January. As librarian, she has a list of six books for possible purchase by the society and the library.

Election of officers

Motion (Carol Sharpnack/Pete Peterson)/passed: Re-elect Lynette Spicer as secretary.

The Vice President for Programming position is still vacant.

There are no meetings in December.

In January and February, the society meetings are via Zoom online only. Genealogy+ will remain hybrid at the library and online.

The business meeting concluded at 6:44 p.m. The program was general discussion.

The group discussed where is the society going. There were a variety of opinions from we are not getting good attendance at Monday evenings to PBS programs have helped get people interested in genealogy.

Where do you have your family tree and how does your family access it?

When you pass away, who can access your information?
Researchers need to give others passwords to access. Family Search is public. Other services are public. On Ancestry, one can designate a legacy contact. You could make designations in your will. Online one can list only people who have died, not those who are living.

Continued in next column (**Minutes**)

Continued from previous column (**Minutes**)

How do you want to share your genealogy research?

Print a book and give away or sell copies. Some are self-publishing with [lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com). Iowa Genealogy Society keeps family histories.

Program topic ideas

- How to self-publish books.
- What nationalities settled in various areas of Iowa?
- The Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa has broken ground on a new museum, which is slated to open in late 2026. Could be a road trip to Des Moines.
- What are the benefits of belonging to the Iowa Genealogical Society? (Interest groups for various nationalities, some are online meetings.)

The May 20 Genealogy+ meeting could be members each taking 5 to 10 minutes to share how they are presenting their genealogy research to family members.

Fidella Marty volunteered.

Bonnie Norman in using Storyworth and will present hers (she will be done in half a year).

Lynette Spicer will present how she has done several family histories.

Last week board members decided the society could skip society meetings when Genealogy+ falls in the same week. There will not be a society meeting on April 13.

Discussion concluded at 7:39 p.m.

Lynette Spicer, Secretary

Amazing Facts

- A hummingbird's heart beats at over 1,000 times a minute.
- Dragonflies have 6 legs but can't walk.
- A crocodile can't move it's tongue.
- A group of frogs is called an army.
- A group of geese is called a gaggle.

REMEMBER **NO DECEMBER** **MEETINGS**

Coast Guard Happy Birthday



The **history of the United States Coast Guard** goes back to the United States Revenue Cutter Service, which was founded on 4 August 1790 as part of the Department of the Treasury. The Revenue Cutter Service and the United States Life-Saving Service were merged to become the Coast Guard per 14 U.S.C. § 101 which states: "The Coast Guard as established January 28, 1915, shall be a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times." In 1939 the United States Lighthouse Service was merged into the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard itself was moved to the Department of Transportation in 1967, and on 1 March 2003 it became part of the Department of Homeland Security. However, under 14 U.S.C. § 3 as amended by section 211 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006, upon the declaration of war and when Congress so directs in the declaration, or when the president directs, the Coast Guard operates as a service in the Department of the Navy.

The information above was derived from Coast Guard history: [History of the United States Coast Guard - Wikipedia](#). More information can be found by clicking the various links.

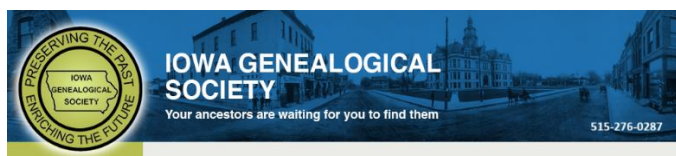
AMES HISTORY MUSEUM **UPCOMING EVENTS**



NOTE: Picture is from Ames Historical Museum website

You can go to <https://ameshistory.org> and register or call 515-232-2148 or go to the Contact Us page to send them a message via email. They have re-published their hours on the Home Page. Please read the articles that are published.

Ames History Museum is located at 416 Douglas Ave #101, Ames, Iowa 50010, 515 232 2148.



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SCGS is a member of the IGS and suggests that you visit their library. Visit the IGS website to discover the many military, vital records, family histories, international and other items available at IGS. A look through the website menu will yield many ideas.

The November minutes for SCGS contain more information about IGS – please read the minutes.

“Your ancestors are waiting for you to find them”

Holidays and Other Reasons to Celebrate December 2025

December 1 – Cyber Monday
 December 1 – Rosa Parks Day (AL, OH)
 December 2 – Giving Tuesday
 December 6 – St Nicholas Day
 December 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
[Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2025 in the United States](https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/pearl-harbor-remembrance-day-2025)
 December 7 – Delaware Day (DE)
 December 10 – Wyoming Day (WY)
 December 13 – National Guard Birthday
 December 15 – Bill of Rights Day
 December 17 – Pan American Aviation Day
 December 17 – Wright Brothers Day
 December 21 – December Solstice
 December 24 – Christmas Eve
 December 25 – Christmas Day
 December 26 – Day After Christmas (NC, SC, TX)
 December 31 – New Year's Eve

There are many religious and regional holidays to celebrate also. For worldwide holidays and observances: <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/>.

I Hate It...

When people ask me if I did anything exciting over the weekend...

Like I'm over here skydiving. I'm old. I went to Walmart, did some laundry, ate too much food, and took a nap.

Other Holidays to Celebrate but Not Well Known

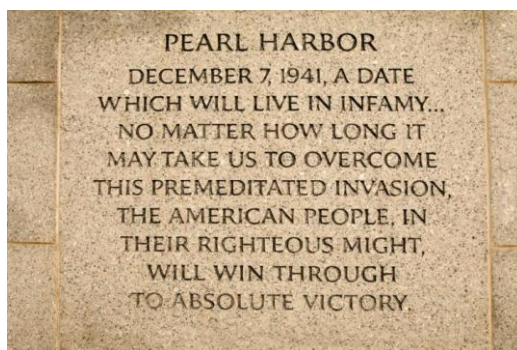
December 4 – National Cookie Day
 December 5 – Bathtub Party Day
 December 11 – Official Lost and Found Day
 December 12 – Gingerbread Decorating Day
 December 13 – National Horse Day
 December 14 – Monkey Day
 December 15 – National Ugly Sweater Day
 December 15 – National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
 December 15 – Cat Herders Day
 December 19 – Underdog Day
 December 26 – National Whiners Day

I hope that everyone took time (whether over a good, healthy meal or social media to be thankful for everything that we all have.



Be thankful every day for what you have instead of what you don't have.





Background

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the American Army and Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy. The attack came as a surprise to the American Army and Navy and led to great losses of life and equipment. More than 2000 American citizens were killed and more than 1000 were injured. The Americans also lost a large proportion of their battle ships and nearly 200 aircraft that were stationed in the Pacific region. More than 60 Japanese servicemen were killed, injured or captured. The Japanese Navy also lost five midget submarines and 29 aircraft.

The Japanese military had hoped that the attack on Pearl Harbor would prevent the United States of America from increasing her influence in the Pacific. However, the events in Pearl Harbor actually led to the escalation of World War II. The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan and so entered World War II. President Franklin Roosevelt in a speech to Congress stated that the bombing of Pearl Harbor was “a date which will live in infamy”. Shortly afterwards, Germany also declared war on the United States. In the months that followed the attack, the slogan “Remember Pearl Harbor” swept the United States and radio stations repeatedly played a song of the same name.

In 1991, which marked the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States Congress established the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Medal. This is also known as the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Medal and can be awarded to any veteran of the United States military who were present in or around Pearl Harbor during the attack by the Japanese military. The medal can be awarded to civilians, who were killed or injured in the attack.

Symbols

Memorials have been built to remember or to symbolize the day. For example, the USS *Arizona* Memorial in Pearl Harbor is a marble memorial built over the sunken USS *Arizona*, which was dedicated in 1962. The memorial remembers all military personnel who were killed in the Pearl Harbor attack. The memorial was designed by architect Alfred Preis, an Austrian-born resident who lived in Honolulu and was placed at a detainment camp after the Pearl Harbor attack as part of the internment policy of Japanese and German Americans at the time.

Another memorial that commemorates Pearl Harbor Day is the USS *Utah*, a battleship that was attacked and sunk in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. A memorial to honor the crew of the USS *Utah* was dedicated on the northwest shore of Ford Island, near the ship's wreck, in 1972. The ship was added to the National Register of Historic Places and declared a National Historic Landmark in 1989. It is also Utah's official state ship. Memorabilia, books, and movies about the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 have also been made available to the public over the years.

The information above was obtained from the link to Wikipedia from www.timeanddate found in the newsletter page containing December dates. If you wish to read more about the Pearl Harbor attack such as any other memorials, etc. please follow the link: [Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2025 in the United States](#).

Editor's Column

This issue has a little bit of humor. If I get some articles or information from SCGS members I will be glad to delete the humor articles in future newsletters. The snow and cold weather force me want to stay inside.

The military articles in this issue can also be used for genealogy, unless you already do. The record for many service men and women can be found in military grave sites on many of the search engines and also at some of the information sites established for military information.

We recently had a presentation from a SCGS member who told about his father and the many facts that he uncovered just by digging into his military history. Also, the library and genealogical sources located in Des Moines are good places to go. Cemeteries and cemetery search sites are good also.

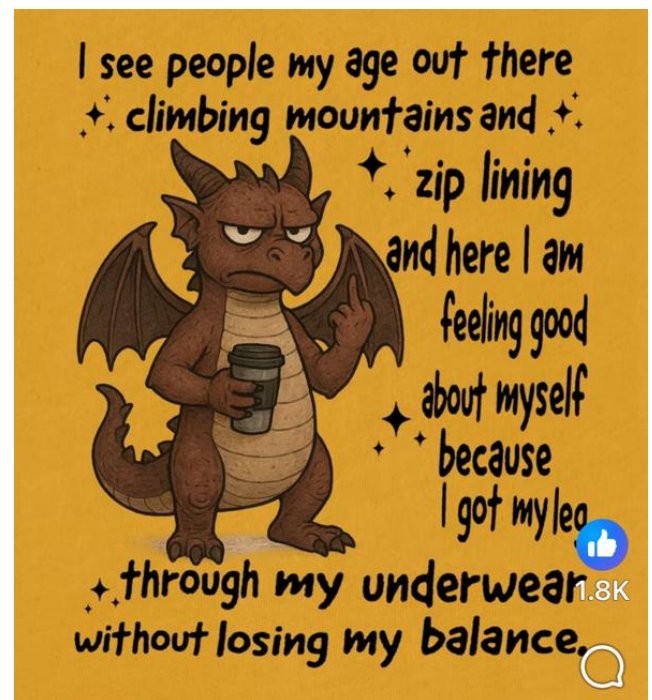
The article for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day takes up a full page because there were many service people that died in that attack and a lot of ships and planes destroyed. It is also one of the most important military dates in our history, as you can see.

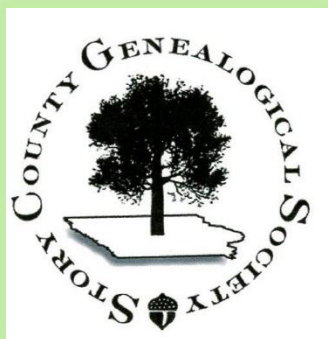
I will check my email daily in hopes of seeing articles from the SCGS members. The articles can be of importance to the member(s) as family articles and/or genealogy importance. Remember that history is often be related to genealogy and you may find a long, lost relative in an article.

Please check the Ames Public Library, Ames History Museum, Iowa Genealogy and the state of Iowa Library directly across the street for many leads and a lot of information about genealogy. Of course, there are many more places to visit in and around Iowa. Don't forget YouTube also. There are many genealogy videos there also.

If anyone has an idea for a Word Search that hasn't been done in the newsletter, please let me know. Maybe we'll have to go to another type of puzzle.

As Mary Lohr always says – **Happy Hunting**





Logo design by Karen
Pattee David

STORY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Send dues and donations to P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

Credit Cards are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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OR

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Individual Membership - \$20

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